



**November Board Meeting
Minutes**

**November 5, 2024
2:00 PM/Zoom**

Present: Kristi Farver Oaks, Traci Weller, Lauren Rennaker, Allison Strekal, Tagen Vine, Sara Hofer

Absent: Sarah Eckman

- I. **Call to Order** – The Board meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m.
- II. **Review of October Meeting Minutes** – No changes were made to the October minutes. Tagen moved to approve, Sara seconded, approved.
- III. **Financial Report** – Tagen gave an update on the financial report, we have some extra money coming in from Summit registrations, reflected on this month's report. Expenses for the Summit were higher than expected, that will be reflected on next month's report.
- IV. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Summit Committee** – Sara gave a recap of the Summit, the Summit committee met last week to do a more in-depth debrief. This year, we had a slight increase in registrations and registration fees, 83 people attended. Some comments/ideas for next year:
 - i. Overall the feedback was very positive, people enjoyed the sessions/ability to network with others
 1. Sara will type up the evals from the Summit so we have easy access to the data.
 - ii. Increase registration fees (this would have helped offset the higher venue fee)
 - iii. The sessions were too long overall
 - iv. The room was too cold/or too hot
 - v. Look at exploring breakout sessions/have a more broad Summit theme, more general fundraising theme
 - vi. Allison is going to chair the 2025 Summit Committee, which will be in Great Falls
 - vii. Way to go Sara for her excellent leadership in planning the event!
 - b. **Sponsorship Committee** – Tagen gave an update, we'll be looking at a more strategic approach to sponsorship, since it's tough to ask people who we are asking for our own organizations. Lauren suggested thinking more about statewide businesses that would be interested in reaching our statewide members.
 - c. **Awards & Recognition** – Allison wants to look at revamping/redesigning the awards for next year. Attendance at the dinner was low, and it seems like people don't really care about the awards in general anymore, since we struggled to get nominees. Possible ideas include getting rid of the award dinner, doing the awards during lunch, or just doing one meaningful award. Will be discussed as part of 2025 Summit planning.

- d. Communications Committee – Allison will reach out to Laura regarding her staying in the contract role for 2025. Sarah Eckman is willing to take on this committee, so Allison will work with her on a transition plan to make sure she has everything she needs. Will put a recap of the Summit on the website.
- e. Membership Committee – Traci shared her membership update – we have 73 current members, that number fluctuates quite a bit month to month because of people renewing, lapsing, or joining. We have gotten 26 new members in 2024, the goal was 50, which was ambitious. The membership committee will reassess at the board retreat in January.
- f. Professional Development Committee – Kristi updated that the committee is gearing up for the Spring Lunch and Learns. The dates for those are: February 20, April 17 and June 12. February will be a Funder Panel, with Murdock Trust confirmed. Discussion around other topics, including: major giving, planned giving, maximizing board involvement in fundraising.
 - i. We will keep the Mix and Mingles in March, with each city identifying a time/day that works for them. It would be great to have them on the same day, but understand that might not work.
 - ii. Mentorship program is on hold for now, we aren't ready to launch anything yet.

V. **Policy & Procedures Review & Discussion** –The Board reviewed the Speakers Policy and Speaker Agreement. Traci moved to accept both, Sara seconded, approved. We will send the Speakers Agreement to all Summit and Lunch and Learn speakers moving forward.

VI. **Ongoing Board/Committee Recruitment** –Traci will follow up with Maddie Rigg from the Glacier Institute, Allison following up with Danielle and Lexie from the Billings Clinic Foundation.

VII. **Operations Grants Proposals** – the board discussed submitting grant proposals to large foundations in Montana to receive some operating funds. Traci started an application with the Washington Foundation, but will do some more research as their priorities might not align with us. Will keep exploring this topic.

VIII. **2025 Board Retreat**

- a. The date for the 2025 Board Retreat is Friday, January 24th in Bozeman at the MSU Alumni Foundation office. We will keep the same format and work on developing the agenda over the next few months.

IX. **Adjourn**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Next Board Meeting

December 3, 2024 at 2 p.m. via Zoom