

Finance Committee Minutes

Wednesday, May 22, 2024, via Zoom

Attendees: Lynda Grande, Committee Chair; Esther Beth Sullivan, David Cates, David Dietrich

Staff: Jill Baker, Executive Director, Jodi Todd, Accountant

Committee Chair Lynda Grande called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. A quorum was present.

Discussions:

April 30, 2024 Financial Reports

The committee reviewed the April 30 2024 Budget to Actual, April 30 2024 HM Balance Sheet, and April 30 2024 HM P & L reports. Jill and Jodi answered questions about revenue and expenses. There were no concerns. Lynda called the question. Beth moved, and David seconded the motion to approve the April 30 2024 financial reports and it passed unanimously.

Jill stated that the total grant award from the Englehard Foundation, \$160,000 was recognized in FY2023 despite only receiving \$80,000 in that year due to a nonprofit accounting rule that requires that the full amount be recognized when a grant is awarded without specified terms and conditions. It will appear that the Democracy Project program is in a deficit, as the revenue has already been recognized in the previous fiscal year.

Overall, HM is in a good position financially however due to the lack of program activities during the pandemic as well as the staff transitions in the past year there is a significant carry over amount with the NEH Award SO-289884-23 grant.

Jill recommended that HM spend down the carry-over funds through increasing support for Montana Conversations, Speakers in the Schools, Montana Center for the Book, and Re-grants in FY24. As a result, the committee voted to add \$25,000 to the re-grants budget line item going into the fall grant cycle. David

Cates made the motion, Beth seconded and the motion carried unanimously and will be presented to the full board for approval at the June board meeting.

Jodi left the meeting at 12:45 pm. Jill and the committee members thanked her for her service to Humanities Montana over the past five years.

MNA Board Training Report

Beth reported that she reviewed both of the Montana Nonprofit Association's webinars, "A Board's Guide to Money." She recommended that the recorded training be available to all board members, especially to new board members as they onboard to the organization

The committee discussed diversifying funding sources and the importance of private fundraising. Dave Dietrich asked Jill to research how HM compares to other state humanities councils in the western region. Jill agreed to compile a report to share with the board. *See attachment: Regional State Councils 2022 990 Reports.*

Hiring Update

Jill reported that she posted the full time Fiscal Operations Manager position on Friday, May 17th. As a backup plan she is considering outsourcing accounting to a firm, and/or working with another state humanities council for coverage until a successful candidate is found.

Lynda adjourned the meeting at 12:58 pm. JB