

Community Engagement Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, April 10, 2024, via Zoom

Attendees: Jeanette Fregulia, Chair, Carol Bradley, Lathie Poole

Staff: Jill Baker, Executive Director

Committee Chair Jeanette Fregulia called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM

Agenda:

Jeanette reviewed the current purpose of the Community Engagement Committee with the group from the revised bylaws: **Community Engagement Committee**. There shall be a Community Engagement Committee. The chair shall recommend directors to serve on the Community Engagement Committee and recommend its chair. The board shall appoint the committee members and its chair by resolution. Specific duties of the Community Engagement Committee include:

- A. Provide oversight of Humanities Montana programming;
- B. Serve in an advisory capacity for any new programming;
- C. Provide support with special events, including the Governor's Humanities Awards;
- D. Provide support with donor outreach and communications with stakeholders

Jeanette then led a discussion:

- How do we further define the purpose of this committee? What is our "Why"?

Jeanette opened the conversation by sharing that she met with Jill the previous week to discuss this committee's charter and further define its purpose, yet struggled with clarifying the governance role of the committee separate from operations. Through this discussion, Jeanette came to the conclusion that perhaps we were trying too hard to create a committee and that with a development director now hired as well as an executive director, it is time for the board to reconsider its governance role.

- What is the board's role in Community Engagement?

The committee concluded that board oversight of programs and development is provided through the approval of the strategic plan, and the executive director supervises staff to ensure that the strategic goals are met. Additionally, it is the role of each board member to support fundraising and outreach for HM. Ad-hoc

operational committees that include board involvement may be recruited throughout the year to help with planning events.

Concerns were raised about providing board support to program and development staff through the committee. Jill thanked the committee for stepping up to support staff during the recent leadership transitions, and assured them that staff were well supported and would be available to provide reports to the board as requested.

The committee then discussed next steps for dissolution the Community Engagement Committee. Jeanette will present the recommendation from the committee to dissolve at the upcoming Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 PM. JB