Carol writes:

Hello all,

I’ve been wrestling with how to assign a governance committee the authority it ought to have without usurping the executive committee’s over-arching purview. What I’m about to suggest is a big departure from what we’ve discussed, but it’s the format Great Falls’ Neighborworks board operates under. That organization is nationally recognized and also works closely with the Montana Association of Non-Profits.

In short, let’s rename the existing Executive Committee—i.e., all the board chairs – as the Governance Committee, responsible for writing the mission statements of the various committees; coordinating HM’s yearly calendar; using a board matrix to compile a bench of board applicants; orienting new board members; and coming up with ideas for board outreach.

Under this format, HM’s officers would become the new Executive Committee, available to handle emergent issues.

Organizing the Governor’s Humanities Awards ceremony is a huge undertaking and would fall under operations, best handled by staff. After our ED interviews, we bounced around the possibility of hiring a development director/communications director. That person would be responsible for pulling off the awards ceremony, with help as needed from board members.

That’s it. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.