Humanities Montana

Ad Hoc Governance Committee Minutes

Friday, August 4th at Noon via Zoom

Attendees: Carla Homstad, Committee Chair, David Dietrich, HM Chair, Carol Bradley, Jeanette Fregulia, Lynda Grande, Mary Hernandez, and Jill Baker, Executive Director

A quorum was present.

Committee Chair Carla Homstad welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

Program Committee Discussion:

Carla provided a brief report on the progress of the ad hoc committee. At the June meeting, the board voted to accept bylaw changes to the Executive Committee’s duties and the Trusteeship Committee which updated its duties and changed its name to the Governance Committee. There were no recommended changes to either the Finance/Audit Committee nor the Grants Committee. This leaves the final task of the Ad Hoc Committee to determine how to best structure the Program Committee.

After having conversations with Jill, John and Jeanette, Carla proposed the following changes:

The Program Committee will be renamed the Community Engagement Committee. Proposed specific duties include:

1. Provides oversight of Humanities Montana programming;
2. Serves in an advisory capacity for any new programming;
3. Assists with conferences and special events; including the Governor’s Humanities Awards;
4. Networks with partner organizations;
5. Assists with donor outreach and communications with stakeholders.

The proposed Community Engagement Committee would continue to provide oversight of HM’s programs and expand its focus to include some development and outreach duties. The committee had a discussion about the board’s role in oversight and agreed that it would move to a more governance role rather than operational role in its oversight. Additionally, the proposed committee would lessen the need to have ad hoc committees for special events moving forward and leverage the board’s relationships and connections to assist with outreach and potential donor relations in partnership with staff. The committee agreed that this would be a positive focus for this committee. Lynde Grande made the motion to approve the creation of the Community Engagement Committee (formerly Programs Committee) as presented by Carla. David Dietrich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Ad Hoc Committee then discussed next steps. Jeanette will present the changes at the next Programs Committee Meeting at the end of August. Carla will make the changes to the bylaws document with Jill’s assistance. The changes will then be presented at the September Board Meeting for a final vote.

It was also suggested that the Program Committee provide some direction to staff regarding the metrics that they would like to see reported to the board moving forward.

Carla adjourned the meeting at 12:31 PM. JB