

Better Together Board Meeting: Minutes

Friday, April 26, 2024 - 12 pm - 1 pm

Virtual only/Zoom

Invitations/Attendance

Dr. Freddie Avant	Jordan Bridges	Dr. Andrew Dies	Anna Donihoo
Tracie Estep	Amelia Ruiz Fischer	Michelle Key	Sara Mendez
Dr. Katie Moses	Carlos Palomo	Terrence Reeves	Mario Torres
Erin Windham			

Purpose: approval of board nominations, consider financial support for new projects

Chair called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. It was determined a quorum was present for the meeting.

Approve Minutes from March

Minutes were unanimously approved.

1. Anna shared the following announcements:
 - a. April grant-writing class for Katie was rescheduled for May
 - b. We are working on getting the community grant-writing class: Which will be held October 22-23 at the Nacogdoches Public Library with lunch provided for up to twenty participants.
 - c. WRC Gathering July 16-17: We have 8 confirmed attendees. Individuals will need to book their own rooms and will be reimbursed afterward.
 - d. Anna requested if anyone had any connections to Walkable Nac. Tracie mentioned that she was in a meeting with someone from Walkable Nac and agreed to make a connection for us.
2. Board Nominations (Anna)
 - a. The following were brought forth as nominees:
 - i. Caroline Garner, United Way
 - ii. Lauren Ivy Sieja, Social Worker Private Practice
 - iii. Cindy Pruett, Appleby Community Farm
 - iv. Gordon Reynolds, GETCAP
 - v. Tamara Harris, Director of Nursing SFASU
 - b. Andrew made a motion to approve nominees, Erin seconded the motion. The board unanimously voted to approve.
 - c. Anna and Katie will provide multiple Informational sessions with various dates and times offered for nominees.
 - d. The Next Advisory Board meeting to approve nominees as Board Members will be at noon on Thursday, May 9 via Zoom.
3. Board Retreat (Katie)
 - Doodle poll will be sent after the meeting to try and find a common day/time in June for a four-hour board retreat. We have to wait to finalize the date until new board members get officially voted in so they can also be available for the retreat.

- The Retreat will focus on Strategic Planning: Who is better together? What makes us unique? How do we operate, how do we do business? By answering these questions we can work on tackling sustainability and future visioning.
 - Erin suggested using Thought Exchange to start brainstorming these questions ahead of time so we can come away from the retreat with a plan for the following year.
4. Summer Intern (Katie)
- a. Katie requested intern to receive \$3075 for the duration of the summer. Erin's deliverables (services she will be providing) in bold along with expectations (things she will be learning) in italics.
 - i. **Lead fundraising for Citizen Nac dry cleaner clean-up project**
 - ii. **Assist with facilitating board retreat**
 - iii. **Assist with conducting research regarding the mental health in jail crisis in Nacogdoches**
 - iv. **Assist with mental health conference some local partners are putting on called Interwoven.**
 - v. **Assist with writing and sending quarterly newsletter to stakeholders.**
 - vi. *Spend dedicated time each week at Joe's Diner and Resources Center*
 - vii. *Spend time in the community making connections for Better Together*
 - viii. *Learn and assist with grant writing efforts for Better Together projects*
 - ix. *Attend the Wellness in Rural Communities Annual Partner Event*
 - x. *Read Ignite! Getting Your Community Coalition "Fired Up" for Change by Frances Dunn Butterfoss*

Carlos made a motion to approve the paid internship in the amount of \$3075. Tracie seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.

5. Candid Community (Katie)
- a. **Candid Community is a Grant Database** that we are wanting to install at the Nacogdoches Public Library to help meeting community needs of funding projects that will advance our common agenda.
 - b. Candid is a nonprofit organization connecting people with information about the social sector. We provide electronic resources and capacity building on the nonprofit world through local libraries and organizations serving the public. You can connect your staff and patrons with our nonprofit resources including organizational information, fundraising research, free trainings, and much more with our program called Candid Community.
 - c. Candid Community is a bundle of search tools, giving anyone who visits your library access to GuideStar and Foundation Directory. Here is a brief video demo of these tools in action. We are also very happy to share these free resources for your library:
 - i. Live and on-demand trainings: Learn about a range of topics from starting a nonprofit to proposal writing, management, governance, sustainability, and transparency.

- ii. Online librarian consultations: Receive real-time, personalized assistance from our in-house experts on philanthropy, nonprofit management, and fundraising.
 - iii. Audiobook and e-book library: Access thousands of fundraising and nonprofit-related e-books and audiobooks, expertly curated by Candid's librarians.
 - iv. Nonprofit knowledge base: Browse through short, actionable articles that address immediate questions on key nonprofit concepts and topics.
 - v. Newsletter: Stay informed about the ever-changing philanthropic landscape through updates from Candid.
 - d. Along with the database, we will provide one free grant writing training at the library, which those of you who have expressed interest will get to have a seat first, and then we will fill in with interested community agencies and individuals. The goal is to provide this for a year and evaluate its usefulness to the community. The database will allow us to track usage, and then the library will let us send a survey to users to help determine if it was useful in obtaining grants to benefit the community. The goal is the library will find it so useful and helpful that they will continue to fund this program after the first year. The cost is \$2995. Requesting board approval to move forward and get the database installed this summer.
 - e. Erin made a motion to approve the \$2995 to Candid Community. Carlos seconded. The Board unanimously approved.
6. Concerned Black Men MS Summit (Terrence)
- a. Dr. Avant spoke on behalf of CBM in Terrence's absence. The organization will be hosting a Middle School Summit at SFA. CBM has asked Better Together to contribute sponsorship and a presenter for the event. Andrew recommended George Montgomery, Assistant Dean of Students, who agreed to present "Decision Making for a Quality Future." We will email Terrence about the amount CBM was requesting for sponsorship so the board can vote on it through email.
7. NAMI (Jordan)
- a. Jordan provided updates on NAMI. They have several initiatives coming up and he will know more after their next meeting.
8. Better Together Board Evaluation (Katie)
- a. Katie will send a survey for the board to provide feedback on the board meeting as well as the overall experience of serving on the board this year to gauge effectiveness of the meetings and format.
9. Lone Star Legislative Summit Share Out
- a. Katie shared the value of the reception and getting to meet key community members and exchange information.
 - b. Anna found value in hearing the legislators' positions and understanding their level of understanding on key topics.
10. **Added:** Mental health Committee Updates (Anna)
- a. Anna shared the recent meeting she had with Amelia and Judge Sinz. Katie and Anna will meet with Sheriff Bridges next week to get approval to move forward with data collection to begin a needs assessment of the county jail.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.