

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

10:30 am to 1:30 pm

Welcome and Call to Order: Delaine called the meeting to order at 10:30. Brief introductions around the table. Present: Alice Philips, Julie Beckett, Delaine Peterson, Kristen Aller, Doug Cunningham, Paula Connolly, Annie Armknecht, Tricia Crain, Sam Houston, Al Fagerlund, Jim Francis

Chelsey Markle joined the meeting at 10:50.

Reports & New Business:

August 2019 Board Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Donna Bachman to approve the minutes as posted, seconded by Julie Beckett. Motion carried on a vote.

Election of Board Director: Josh Smothers submitted by Delaine Peterson. Josh unable to attend due to child care issues. Delaine made a motion to add Josh to the Board of Directors; Kristen Aller seconded the motion and it carried on a vote. Josh plans to help the board with marketing activities.

History Committee Report: Doug reported for Mike Wood. A Drake student has been hired by the Harkin Institute to initiate paperwork for the Arc archives; they hope to start working on it by December, and will be able to take information that we have/will collect(ed). This group will also interview people who have history to share regarding Arc of Iowa.

Resource Committee Report: Doug reported regarding membership drive push. He talked about the ability to register and pay dues online. From the money collected from dues, \$5 goes to resource committee to help maintain the membership data base and grow resources; \$10 to Arc of Iowa, and remaining dollars go to the local Arcs. Checks will be issued once a month. Eventually may hire someone to handle the website and the money. Paula asked about planned giving for our older members or previous members.

Invest in Advocacy: Delaine composed the letter to send out to former members, to ask for a donation. \$4000.00 has been received so far. Delaine commended Mike Wood who has put in much personal time to help the Arc of Iowa and to open doors for Julie Beckett and Delaine to meet with people who make policy decisions.

Policy Committee Report: Julie Beckett reported. She thanked Mike Wood for his help in getting to meet and know people. Julie stressed the importance of building a relationship with the people at the Legislature before asking them to buy into the ideas and advocacy of the Arc of Iowa. Julie is working to

gather a list of people and she has already started to work to build those relationships. She also wants to teach people (through the newsletter) how to advocate, how to tell their story, and to stop putting blame on people or groups. The big issue is the direct care worker shortage, and she and Mike are brainstorming ideas to work on this issue. Paula added that ASK Resource Center is available to help with direct care issues.

Finance Committee Report: YTD Financial Report: At the state level, bills are paid, no one is taking a paycheck at this time, so many volunteer hours. The budget has good cash flow; especially with the vending machines being paid off after the large donation earlier this year.

Expansion of Finance Committee: Basically, Sam is the finance committee, but Dave Graham will be joining the committee soon. Sam reported that Dave has much experience and will be a good addition to the committee. Sam stated that his job is to do the background work in order to report to the Board about what is going well and what needs work or needs to happen. Sam also talked about looking for a new audit firm.

Proposed 2020 Annual Budget: Sam reviewed the proposed budget for 2020. Delaine and Sam have met to talk about different line items. Sam pointed out the affiliation fees are a big income piece. For the cost side, the vending machine expenses and the National Arc fees are the big fixed expenditures. The proposed budget will be finalized and published for review within a week. The Board will vote on the proposed budget at our next Board meeting.

BREAK: 11:55-12:10

Executive Report:

Advocacy: Training: 2019 Make Your Mark Conference: Kristen attended this conference; she enjoyed the speakers, and learned about self-advocacy. Arc of Iowa helped to support this conference

2020 Together We Can Conference: will be held on May 2, 2020 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. Arc of Iowa is one of several partners helping to host this conference for families and advocates of persons with disabilities. More information will be provided in the coming month and posted on the ASK Resource Center website. One of the main speakers will be AJ Weld and her son Devon who will share their story. Child care will be available for the families.

Advocacy Partnerships: Information for the Board of Directors regarding the partnerships that we have contact and/or relationships

- MAAC Advisory Committee: meeting this next week
- DD Council: Kristen serves on this Council; they will meet next week. Kristen will share information at the next Board meeting. A survey is being sent out.

- Livable Community Work Group: Doug works with this group, which works to help people gain access to equipment or home modifications. They use grant money to support people, and currently have money that they may disburse through grants. The money mostly goes to rural communities with populations of less than 50,000 people.

Resources:

Grant Projects:

- Disability Rights Grant-2020 Caucus Buddy Program: - Approved

Arc received a grant from Disability Rights, and will offer grant \$ to local Arcs to support Caucus involvement for persons with disabilities. The potential amount would be \$250 per request. We will also ask each recipient to report back to Arc of Iowa regarding any accessibility issues. Delaine reported that 13% of eligible voters have disabilities. There is National Arc interest in the Caucus program.

- Theisen Grant – Approved – WorkAbility Vending Program

Grants being reviewed

- Ben & Jerry's: we were invited to submit a grant; it is written but needs revising and resubmitted; asking \$25,000.
- Fred Maytag Foundation.
- Principal Financial: interested in caregiving issues for their employees; it will be a big grant.

Vending-Social Vending

Communication:

Holiday Newsletter: will be coming out, with info about membership. Holiday is a good time to request donations; Arc of Iowa can help the local chapters get things set up to do this request.

Chapter Visits & Supports: Delaine reported that Doug and Mike have been traveling to the smaller Arcs to help build up their memberships and local Arcs. Delaine formally thanked them.

Arc of Wayne County

Arc of Cedar Valley

Chapter Updates:

Tabled

Chapter Mediation:

The Arc of East Central Iowa:

The Arc of Iowa Executive Committee received a letter from the Arc of East Central Iowa. Delaine gave a brief history of the memo from Arc of ECI. They are asking for 5 points of information from the Arc of Iowa. She shared a rough draft of a response to the Arc of ECI which Doug read to the entire group in the room. Annie of ECI reported that her committee would like the response to include timelines. She shared that the Arc of ECI is aware of the work that Arc of Iowa has done in the past few years and that their local Arc is not as needy of the things that Arc of Iowa has built for the smaller Arcs chapters in Iowa, and needs to manage every dollar of their budget. Discussion included the desire to meet the conditions requested but also to stress the importance of building advocacy across the state, and the need for the Arc of Iowa to function as a family structure where all participants help build each other up.

Delaine proposed that the response memo to ECI be submitted to President and Vice President of the Arc of ECI by November 7 to be disbursed to the persons that need to read it. Julie Beckett seconded the motion. Doug expressed gratitude to Annie for coming to the meeting today and also for asking the hard questions. After discussion about adding timelines to the memo, Delaine added a friendly amendment that we would finalize the proposed budget in December and the affiliation committee will be seated in January 2020. Julie Beckett seconded the amendment, and the motion carried on a vote.

Other Business:

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 11 at 10 AM at the Ames Public Library.

Meeting is adjourned at 1:40 PM.