

Board Minutes

Monday December 11, 2017

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, Rm 2, White River Junction, VT 05001

Directors Present: Jenn Colby (by phone), William Dakin (by phone), Bob Flint, Peter Gregory, Marvin Harrison, Bob Haynes, John Lawe, Kristi Morris, Walter Martone (by phone), Joshua “Bushrod” Powers

Also Present: Adolfo Bailon, Mark Condon, Christopher Damiani, Anni MacKay, Carolyn Clinton, Jason Rasmussen

Call to Order

Bob Haynes, the outgoing President, called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM and Mark Condon recorded the minutes. A quorum of directors was present.

Bob H. noted that incoming President Tom Kennedy was unable to attend but that Jason Rasmussen was here to represent SWCRPC in Tom’s absence.

Approval of December 8, 2016 and June 15, 2017 Minutes – Action:

There were no corrections or comments made to these minutes as presented.

Motion to approve December 8, 2016 and June 15, 2017 minutes as presented:

Motion: Joshua Powers

Seconded: Peter Gregory

No further discussion

Motion Carried Unanimously

Election of Officers- Action:

The Election of Officers for FY2018 would have taken place at the June 15, 2017 Board Meeting, but no actions were able to taken at that meeting.

That Slate of Officers as presented are:

Tom Kennedy – President
Bob Flint – Vice President
Peter Gregory – Treasurer
Bob Haynes - Secretary

Motion to approve the Slate of Officers as presented:

Motion: Kristi Morris
Seconded: Marvin Harrison
No further discussion
Motion Carried Unanimously

Bylaw Adoption- Action:

Vice-President Bob Flint presented the proposed By-law revisions, stating that they were the same changes that the Board had gone through at the June 15, 2017 meeting but were unable to act upon.

Chris Damiani summarized the changes as follows: The language was made more concise and acronyms were removed. The paragraph on Representatives was moved from the Membership Section to the Board Section. And the terms for Officers was changed from three years to one year.

Marvin Harrison asked if Article IX on Indemnification was to indemnify the Directors as there is not Directors & Officers insurance. Bob Flint stated that we do have D&O insurance.

Motion to adopt the Bylaw revisions as presented:

Motion: Kristi Morris
Seconded: Bob Haynes
No further discussion
Motion Carried Unanimously

FY18 Grant – All Partners

SRDC- Bob Flint

Bob F. stated that SRDC has been working on Emergency Planning to help business should natural or other disasters happen. They have formed a small committee of people who had experience through Irene. They are working on a list with their SBDC of things that should and shouldn't be done after a disaster, to avoid mistakes such as "don't charge things on credit cards and hope to be

reimbursed by FEMA.” They hope it have it done to a two-sided page that will be used during site visits.

SRDC is also working on developing a Tech Accelerator for Springfield with a potential digital media center intertwined with it.

TRORC- Chris Damiani

Chris stated that TRORC is working on inventorying health related language from local town plans and ordinances and identifying two towns to work with should they wish to update those documents in regards to healthy planning. They are working with Hartford on ordinances on flavored tobacco and on marijuana should it become legal in Vermont, and also with Woodstock to create a health and wellness committee.

Smaller items Two Rivers is also working with the Permanent Fund on childcare issues and planning, Hunger Free VT and continues to maintain the ECVEDD website.

SWCRPC- Jason Rasmussen

Jason said that SWCRPC is working on mapping of vulnerable populations. They’ve been working through some issues of sensitive information from the 211 and 911 systems. One of the goals is to help the prevention partnerships with some of their work. There is also a health-needs assessment coming up. They are also looking at Rethink Health Upper Valley to see if it can be expanded to their area.

GMEDC- Bob Haynes

Bob H. stated that GMEDC continues to work on the Creative Economy in our area, including across the river with Dartmouth. This includes meeting with Mary Lou Aleskie, the new director of the Hopkins Center, and the Dartmouth Entrepreneurial Network. Bob and Peter Gregory are on the Steering Committee on the Vermont Creative Network.

Bob Flint asked if there were any questions on these reports. There were none.

Treasurers Report- Peter Gregory

Peter stated that the ECVEDD currently has \$2,911.73 in its checking account. We have received one-half of our \$70K EDA grant so far which goes out in quarterly payments to the partners. We also pay for the insurance and ads for workshops. We do self-assessments for which the Planning Commissions give \$700 and the Regional Development Corporations \$400.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented:

Motion: Joshua Powers

Seconded: Bob Haynes

No further discussion

Motion Carried Unanimously

FY2018 Budget – Peter Gregory

Peter drew the Board's attention to the FY2018 budget included in the Board packets. He said it was largely the same budget as last year's. It is largely an in-and-out budget that includes a \$70K EDA grant with a similar matching for the organizations and the self-assessments. Peter put forward the budget for \$72,300 for approval.

Motion to approve the FY2018 Budget as presented:

Motion: Marvin Harrison

Seconded: Kristi Morris

Marvin asked if we knew what would be happening with the grant in the year to come. Peter answered that it was hard to say. The EDA is funded through the Department of Commerce. The President's submitted budget had it zeroed out, but all the appropriation bills have it as even with prior years. This is the second year of a three-year commitment, so we should expect it to be near even next year.

Motion Carried Unanimously

District Peer Review- Peter Gregory

Peter said that last week he received an email from EDA's Matt Suchodolski stating that the District Peer Review process would start after the new year. The Executive Committee should discuss at their next meeting what items we will need to show that the District is alive and well. Peter will share that once we have more details.

Marvin asked who our peers are that will do the review. Peter said the EDA assigns them. There is another district in northern Vermont, and another potential one in the south. There is also one in New Hampshire. A lot of groups are working on CEDS to qualify to be a district. Bob H. noted that this qualifies you for federal grants that otherwise you wouldn't be able to get.

Board Membership-

Bob H. introduced Adolfo Bailon, the new Town Manager in Randolph, who has been asked to take over on the ECVEDD Board in the place vacated by Mel Adams.

Everyone introduced themselves around the table.

Bob H. stated that Pete Van Oot has moved away from the area and soon will be resigning from the GMEDC Board and we expect from the ECVEDD Board as well. Also Charlie Kimball has been off the GMEDC Board for some time and thought he was off of the ECVEDD Board as well already. We have asked them for written confirmations of resigning from the Board. GMEDC would like Adolfo Bailon to take one of their open spots on the ECVEDD Board and will put forward someone else's name in the future.

Peter noted that Paul Haskell has also resigned from the Board. The Board list will be updated to reflect these changes.

Motion to appoint Adolfo Bailon to the ECVEDD Board:

Motion: Bob Hayes

Seconded: Peter Gregory

No further discussion

Motion Carried Unanimously

Other Business

Bob H. stated that he, Peter and Chris have had some discussions on the Creative Economy work being done and about finding funding for it going forward. Anni MacKay, Carolyn Clinton and Chris Damiani have been working on this and have been asked to present.

Anni stated that their work has been an offshoot from the Creative Economy report done by Michael Kane which recommended creating a creative network in the 40 towns. To begin with they have been getting to know the players in the organizations throughout the various towns and fostering a collaborative, not competitive, environment. They are looking at having a joint calendar on an annual basis and then a curatorial effort to brand themselves over a five years period. They have found the New England Foundation has a resource portal on their website called Creative Ground so are looking at that to support and promote 3CVT.

The initial stage requires a lot of outreach. They recently had an event in Barnard at Feast & Field. Interest is leveling-up, but it will take a few years to become recognized. Anni said that it was important at this point that ECVEDD understands and supports the work 3CVT are doing. Instead of asking for funds for each event going along, it would be better to have it articulated up front.

Bob H. noted it was difficult to discuss funding being half-way through the year, but that we should start discussing and planning it prior to next fiscal year.

Bob F. said that 3CVT falls partially under the Vermont Arts Council zone and was partially an outgrowth of the report funded from EDA. He asked how much funding is being talked about.

Anni though \$5K - \$10k to get out of the gate and become established would be a good beginning. One prior event with 12 participants cost \$1K and a mash-up was \$1,200 which was partially covered by TRORC, GMEDC and Big Town Projects. She noted she was a business and that she didn't want to put herself in that position of outlaying money for each event.

Peter noted that Anni is on the TRORC Board and that the Board didn't want the Creative Economy Report to just sit on the shelf and not be implemented. To put any of the current year's grant towards it would require a grant amendment which typically takes 6 months. Peter suggested that next year some of the EDA funds could go towards it, which would then be matched by TRORC. Other possible funders could be the USDA, the NH Charitable Fund and Mascoma Bank. Chris had a conversation with the USDA about eligibility. TRORC will be out looking for letters of support from creative people and doing a letter of intent. The application is due mid-January.

Bob F. asked that as spring comes and we are all doing next year's budget that it would good to know the budget needs of 3CVT.

Anni brought up the issue of how to receive the funds for the work the committee is doing. Bob F. suggested the District receive the funds and disperse them. Anni stated that the Arts Council gives a stipend for administration, which originally went to Northern Stage and now goes to TRORC for Chris's work.

Marvin said it was important that the work reaches out to all 40 towns and not just focus on four. Kristi asked if it was possible to have business memberships? Bob H. thought the Chambers would

be good.

Marvin stated that ECVEDD would seem to be the correct organization to be the umbrella over this work.

Adjourn- Action

Motion to adjourn: 4:55 pm

Motion to Adjourn: Bob Haynes Seconded:

Joshua Powers

No further discussion

Motion Carried Unanimously