American Council of the Blind of Nebraska

December 9 Minutes

President Kristal Platt called the meeting to order at 7:37p.m. With the exception of Amber, Patti represented Omaha’s interest, all board members were in attendance. Mark was the only guest

As the minutes from the previous meeting were emailed soon after its conclusion, Patti moved their approval. Francie seconded the motion, which passed.

Dale reported a checking account balance of $6,482.40. Our bond fund has 4,228.912 shares for a total of $33,535.27 as of December 9. Kristal asked about the market fluctuation since the election. Dale indicated it fluctuates daily and that there are several things that contribute to its fluctuation. Kristal asked whether Zell could be used without a fee. Dale indicated we don’t have Zell. ACH is the payment method used to pay Annette for her services. Dale reported the finance committee has not met since the last meeting. Kristal then asked about those who sign up for online membership and whether their information has been forwarded on. Jim indicated he usually loads the information in AMMS then shares with Dale the particulars. Dale also put down a challenge to the membership. For donations received via check or online by April 1, he will match up to $1,200. If a donation is received online, the net amount will be included in the total to determine the match amount. Chris moved the approval of the treasurer’s report. Francie seconded the motion, which passed.

Kristal reported she met with Carlos on November 27 to discuss board concerns outlined in Tyler’s letter. Carlos indicated all staff and clients are not obligated to stay beyond a convention banquet, per IRS guidelines. In that same meeting, the subject of an AI workshop was broached. Carlos is in favor of sponsoring a workshop in conjunction with ACBN just prior to the convention. He suggested a 4 hour workshop, a one hour social and a banquet. The agency would also pay for staff and clients to stay overnight and that we should secure 20 to 25 rooms. Jeff Bishop, BITS President, was tapped to present. NCBVI will pay for his travel expenses and compensate him for his time. As a result, Jeff will need to sign a contract with NCBVI. The hotel contract is between the hotel and ACBN, with NCBVI reimbursing for expenses.

Jim reported that he is pursuing contracts for hotels to hold the AI workshop. As of this meeting, he is in possession of a contract from the Comfort Inn on 70th & Grover as well as the Courtyard by Marriott in Bellevue. He is intending on contacting the Hilton Omaha for pricing structure. Jim then asked the question whether the board needed to sign off on the contract since ACBN is upfronting the cost. Dale suggested the board needed to meet and discuss options. After some discussion, the meeting to discuss contracts will take place December 19 at 6:30p.m.

Kristal reported there is now a calendar of events online. She also mentioned there has been no movement on the paperwork received from Gunderson’s office.

Tyler reported that Becky had to step away from the convention committee due to personal obligations. Exhibitors and speakers are being contacted. The committee is planning on having an auction and is encouraging the donation of door prizes. As a cost saving measure, the church is providing all convention meals at an approximate cost of $10 per person per meal. Early registration for members is $65 with a $10 late fee being applied on or after March 1. For non-ACB members, the cost is $75 for early registrations with a $10 late fee to be assessed on or after March 1. Francie has offered to assist with convention registration bags. Mark contacted Don Bacon’s office via email and is awaiting a response.

Chris reported that Iris is now a part of the membership committee and provided some good ideas. The committee discussed ways of increasing at-large membership. Also discussed was the possibility of QR codes with helpful information and resources.

As Amber was not present, no fund raising update was provided.

As Jim’s medical situation is improving, he hopes to convene the constitution committee in January. He will know more after his Wednesday audiology appointment.

As neither Tyler nor Amber had information to present, both hope to have a logo update at the next board meeting.

Kristal reported that 8 members and 2 volunteers took part in the Festival of Trees on November 25.

ACBN held a Speak to Me Zoom call on December 2. 15 persons were in attendance. The thought process is to hold the call earlier next year to give participants a chance to take advantage of holiday offerings that were unavailable at the time of the call.

ACBN is hosting a shopping with a partner event December 10. 6 shoppers are currently planned to participate.

OCB is planning on its annual holiday gathering December 12 at Cassio’s at 6p.m. RSVP to Jim by December 10.

The next meeting is December 19 at 6:30p.m. for the purposes of reviewing hotel contracts for the AI workshop and, if time permits, any logo feedback.

With that bit of business, Tyler moved the meeting to be adjourned. Chris seconded the motion, which passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:43p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jim Jirak,

Secretary