

Evergreen Chapter - American Society for Public Administration
Board of Directors Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, September 13, 2014, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Home of Steve Benowitz, Vashon Island

Participating: Steve Benowitz, Dave Broom, Mark Chubb, Liz DuBois, Caitlyn Jekel, Mark Sullivan, and Mary Van Verst

Not in Attendance: Laura Crandall, Anita DeMahy, Amy Gould, Todd Haskins, Essie Hicks, Aaron Nix, Laura Ochoa, and Eleen Trang

Call to Order

After a wonderful pot-luck lunch, Liz called the meeting to order at 12:45 pm. Special thanks to Steve for hosting the first meeting of the newly constituted board at his lovely home.

Introductions

Introductions were not necessary for those present. We were sorry that none of the new board members were able to attend this planning meeting.

Election of Officers

After discussion, a motion was passed to elect Liz as President, Todd Haskins as Vice President (if he accepts the request from Liz), Dave as Treasurer, and Mary as Secretary. Liz said that she is willing to serve a two-year term.

President's Report

Liz mentioned that she had heard a news story on cultural competence, which sparked a conversation about a potential new event for our chapter. Partners we might want to involve are the Federal Executive Board (FEB), and trainers of Senior Executive Service (SES) candidates. Steve said that the military and DSHS employ many individuals with SES status. Mark C. suggested we look to SES for membership growth and for our job fair. While agencies may no longer pay ASPA membership dues for SES, they may be willing to pay for their SES employees to attend our events. We can serve as a convener. Dave suggested that anyone who wants to get in on this should contact J. Paul Blake. Mark C. and Mark S. said they would connect with J. Paul.

Secretary's Report

Mary called for motions to approve the minutes from our last meeting on June 10, 2014. Motions were carried, and the minutes were approved. Caitlyn will post the minutes on our chapter's website.

Treasurer's Report

Dave reported that we have \$101.16 in our savings account, and \$6,122.93 in checking. We received a rebate of \$414, which is a small portion of Evergreen Chapter membership dues.

This figure is down from previous years in which we've received about \$1,000.

Dave led a discussion about whether we had actually received the 2014 revenue from the Mariners for our partnership with them in May. We determined that we had not received that revenue. Liz will check with our contact at the Mariners.

Dave asked Liz and Mary to review our chapter's fiscal paperwork. Dave will prepare a summary, which Liz will send to the chapter membership.

Dave concluded with the announcement that we have our 501 c 3 status back. Dave will work on the IRS paperwork.

Discussion of 2014-2015 Committees

Liz explained that we typically use this first meeting to determine committees. Discussion ensued about our group being small enough to not necessarily warrant having committees. Rather, individuals could commit to certain roles, and we can let the activities we choose help determine where individuals place their energy.

Caitlyn offered to continue as the point person for our website. Mark S. will continue to manage our LinkedIn and Facebook accounts.

Mark S. said he came to the board last year with a particular interest in "Leadership pipeline issues," which he addressed through his work on the career fair event last year. This year he wants to promote networking among regional graduates.

Caitlyn suggested that our Facebook postings may not show up on most people's feeds. A discussion on using social media, and the science behind it, might be useful. Mark C. noted that he wrote a course for FEMA on this subject.

Programs and Activities for this Year

ASPA 2016 Seattle: Liz said that we will need to form a work group. Dave has the minutes from the National Council meeting. As the chapter hosts of the conference, we have the responsibility of finding speakers. In January the national planning committee will be in Seattle at the Westin to check out the venue and work on the final program design. We should be there. Dave will keep us posted as he learns more. He said that 1998 was the last time Seattle hosted an ASPA conference. He believes that Seattle will draw a good turnout for 2016.

Steve suggested we go to private sector people and ask them to contribute to the chapter for education, training, or an outreach fund, to use for the reception. Liz thought that we should hold a pre and post fund-raising event. Steve has a friend at Swedish whom he'll contact for ideas. Steve also noted that he would like to serve on the conference workgroup.

We need to come up with a proposed theme. Mark C. and Mark S. said that innovation and progress are key themes to this area.

As of now, the conference committee or workgroup will consist of Liz, Steve, Dave, and Laura Oacha. Laura spoke to Liz about her wish to be involved, prior to the meeting.

Mary brought up a new issue concerning the conference. She suggested that we consider promoting an intersection of the ASPA conference and The Foundation of Global Academic Network for Disaster Reduction/Reconstruction (GAND), a new network being formed by our Japanese colleagues at the University of Hyogo. The first GAND conference will be in Kobe on February 6-8, 2015. The UW – Evans School has agreed to be a participant in the first conference, and to be a member of the network.

Each year the conference will be held at one of the universities in the network. Having the 2016 GAND conference in Seattle, just prior to, or immediately after the ASPA conference, could help bring additional international participants to the ASPA conference, and also help avoid potential competition between the two conferences. The board liked this idea.

Mark C. mentioned that Western Washington University has a graduate program in resilience. He knows some people who may want to get involved. Mark S. suggested that the 2016 GAND conference might potentially be hosted by a collaboration between Western and the UW. Dave added that Chris Gibbs from Nevada has a model that the UW might be interested in.

Mary noted that Dr. Ryosuke Aota and two professors from the University of Hyogo are coming to Seattle the week of Sept. 22, 2014 for discussions about GAND with Dean Sandra Archibald, Prof. Ann Bostrom, J. Paul Blake, and with Prof. Jeffrey Riedinger, Vice President for Global Affairs at the UW. Mary will send the GAND proposal to the board.

Mariners and Public Service Recognition Night: We will continue to work with the Mariners for a fund-raising event. Amy sent word prior to the meeting that she is interested in working to jump start an event for Public Service Recognition week.

Other Ideas – Group Discussion:

Seattle City Club Membership: Steve reminded the board that we have a free membership with City Club, meaning that we promote each other's events. He'd like us to consider becoming a non-profit member; a benefit for us to reach out and meet people in the public sector, while educating the public, and to increase our presence in the community. We would also get two tickets to each event.

Steve recently talked with Allie Diffendal, Program Manager at the Seattle City Club, about a lunch seminar. Steve also offered the idea of having a series of about four workshops. He learned that City Club is booked through next spring, but at the suggestion of Allie, we could meet with the City Club planning committee early next year to discuss one or more program ideas.

Mark C. mentioned that the Portland City Club has had a huge draw of 200 or more in

attendance, plus a broadcast on public radio. Liz said that she and Steve had talked about the Affordable Care Act as a potential topic. Caitlyn said that the director of her agency could be a speaker on that topic.

Mark C. and Steve talked about the topic of Seattle's involvement (Gates Foundation) on the eradication of malaria, as well as the current global health issue of Ebola.

Access to mental health care, especially for veterans and the homeless, was also offered as potential topic.

Liz will try to put some structure around these topic ideas.

Following this discussion, the board approved a motion that the Evergreen Chapter will register as a nonprofit member of the City Club of Seattle. Dave will work on the registration process.

Old Business

For upcoming events, Mark S. said that he would continue to work with another board that was helpful in the development of the career fair last year: the Public Service Leadership Diversity Initiative.

Mark S. suggests that we keep our events contained to the King-Pierce area, perhaps with an optional pre-event mixer to help people with issues of commuting or overlap time.

Mary and Caitlyn noted that events can also be planned for local areas where they are naturally situated. The guided river-walk tour of the Deschutes River in Tumwater (Olympia) last fall, was well attended, and served as a way to associate ASPA with a topic that resonates with people in the local area.

As a final note on program planning, Steve asked that we remind ourselves to ensure that we have diversity among our selection of speakers for events.

Adjourn

We adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:30 pm. Coordination of the next meetings needs to occur; dates and times to be determined.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Van Verst