

Board of Directors Meeting – August 11, 2016

The Board of Directors of Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois met at the Coralville Library, Coralville, IA at 4:30 pm.

Present: Andrew Abbott, Lee Mowers, Teresa Colgan, John Cummings, Scott Illingsworth, Sierra Pope, MaryTherese Gehrmann, Jill Dashner, Anne Ryerson, Nancy Franzen, Theresa Dunkin, Laurie Hamen, and Tracy Schwind.

Staff: Diane Nelson, Shelly Wells-Cain, Cheryl Noller, Brenda Lloyd, Nikki Habben, Mahlon Sibert, Hillary Blevins and Kathy Pinger.

Absent: Laura Hubbard, Carrie Rankin, Katie Wiedemann, Nancy Dunkel, Rachel Jaeger, Kay Sackwell-Breuer and Marika Jones.

Welcome & Introductions:

Teresa Colgan welcomed those in attendance and declared a quorum.

Consent Agenda: (see attached)

A motion was made by Lee Mowers to approve the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Sierra Pope. The motion carried.

Financials (see attached)

Lee Mowers presented the proposed 2017 Operating Budget, making note of the aggressive grant goal, using a new baker for cookie sale and salary reduction due to restructure. A deep dive was done this year to ensure the council is being fiscally responsible. Lee made the motion by the Finance Committee to accept the 2017 Operating Budget as presented. Scott Illingsworth provided a second and the motion carried.

The Capital Budget was presented next by Mr. Mowers. This budget contained a number of maintenance expenses that can no longer be postponed. Mr. Mowers presented the motion from the Finance Committee to accept the 2017 Capital Budget as presented. Jill Dashner provided a second and the motion carried.

Property Discussion

Discussion was held related to the sale of 22.2 acres of land that is part of Camp L Kee Ta. This parcel is across the road from the main camp area and is not used for program or camping. The staff has been in contact with neighboring land owners who are interested in purchasing the property and have agreed to keep it in its natural state and accessible to Girl Scouts. It was agreed that discussion continue regarding sale of any other parcel of this property.

The recommendation by the Property Committee that the council divest of the 22.2 acres at Camp L-Kee-Ta across the road from main camp and that no action be taken by the board of directors on the other parcels of land at Camp L-Kee-Ta until more information can be shared and discussed was presented, seconded by Theresa Dunkin and the motion carried.

The sale of Camp Tahigwa was discussed at length. The board discussed the correspondence and letters they received as well as the meeting with the DNR and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF). There is interest from the DNR and INHF in the possibility of forming a partnership or purchasing the property.

Either option would keep the property natural and open to Girl Scouts and the public. The Property Committee is comfortable with how the land would be used. Their partnership in a purchase would enhance the property by stocking the stream, enlarging the prairie and their presence would also increase security on the land.

Correspondence and proposals received by the board from those interested in Camp Tahigwa's future and the Friends of Camp Tahigwa were reviewed and discussed.

A Property Committee recommendation was presented to the Board of Directors to sell Camp Tahigwa in Dorchester, Iowa, in its entirety to an entity with the condition that the land be maintained as a natural space in perpetuity for public use. Jill Dashner provided the second and the motion carried unanimously.

The Property Committee of GSEIWI, in order to protect the high quality of the natural resources, also recommended to the Board of Directors as the first option of sale of property is to develop an exploratory letter to the county conservation boards of Fayette, Winneshiek, Clayton and Allamakee and the Iowa DNR and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation leaders. A second was provided by Lee Mowers and the motion carried unanimously.

It was also recommended that a task group of 5 board members be appointed to negotiate a mutually beneficial agreement for the divestiture of this property with final approval of any said agreement to be determined by the majority of the board of directors at the January 19, 2017 board meeting. The task committee will consist of Lee Mowers, Scott Illingsworth, Jill Dashner, Andrew Abbott and Theresa Dunkin. If the negotiations are not fruitful, the issue will be returned to the Property Committee for review. Anne Ryerson offered a second to the motion and it carried unanimously.

Presidents Report: (see attached)

Teresa Colgan spoke to the board about a proposal and 2 discussion topics which have been presented to the board for submission to the 2017 National Convention. After discussion, it was the opinion of the board that the proposal and topics be presented for discussion at our local town hall meetings. Once our active volunteers have shared their ideas and suggestions, the board would consider supporting the request for the 2020 National Convention.

CEO Report

CEO, Diane Nelson, shared information on the success of Camp Liberty this summer. Resident Camp served 1358 this season; employed 50 staff and had attendance from 36 of our 38 counties. A Parent Camping Survey will be sent out next week.

Between August and the end of November, our recruiting staff will do recruitment meetings at 408 schools. Our goal is to secure 6000 new girls through these recruitments. 2016-2017 programs are set in place and we have 61 active service units. A meeting of all service unit directors will be held at Camp Liberty on August 19-20 to kick off the new school year.

One Tough Cookie was a success for the third year in a row. Each year has seen an increase in participation. It is not only a great fund raiser but it has raised awareness of our camp and programs.

A new fund raising program, GLAMP, is planned for October where area women can come and be pampered and challenged with adventures.

Sierra Pope shared that she went on a National Girl Scout international trip this summer and that it was a great experience. MaryTherese Gehrman shared her experience recently with several council trips. They will both share more information with the board at another meeting and help develop ways we can share these types of opportunities with our council.

Laurie Hamen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30. The motion was seconded by Scott Illingsworth and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Pinger, Executive Assistant to the CEO

Attachments:

Minutes

Property Maps & data

Financials

Consent Agenda Items

Strategic Choices

Nat'l Convention Proposal/Discussion Topics