Board of Directors Meeting

May 15th, 2025

Marriott, Iowa City.

**Present:** Mary Ann Brown, Chelsea Hillman, Clara Garman, Anne Ryerson, Laura Ekizian, Teresa Colgan, Tim Conlon, Sarah Beckman, David Blankenship, Rachel Savage, Sophie Marks, Denise Greenhaw and Tracy Schwind

Girl Board Members Present: Killian Graff, Rowan Price and Madison Herring

Absent: Andrew Abbott, Danica Haas and Emerald Smith,

**Staff:** Diane Nelson, Allison Johnson, Roxie Lucas, Shelly Wells-Cain, Stacy Conforti and Mallory West

**Welcome & Introductions:**

Tracy Schwind, Board Chair, welcomed those in attendance and declared a quorum at 4:07 PM.

**May Renewal (action):**

**Consent Agenda (action):**

Tracy Schwind, Board Chair asked for a motion to accept the consent agenda. The consent agenda included the Minutes: January 2025, Line of credit renewal, Financials: December, January and February, Mid-Year Report FY2025, and Strategic Initiative. Laura Ekizian made the motion; the motion was seconded by Rachel Savage. No discussion followed, all were in favor and the motion carried.

**Finance: (Action)**

Tim Conlon presented our March financials. Revenues are on track for Fund Development, Girl Events and Facility Rentals.  Cookies were short at approximately $330,000, Resident camp is down from the previous year, and investment income is currently down, due to the volatile market.  The staff are making cuts to expenses to the extent possible to make up for short falls in revenue.  This may be a year where we must use reserves to overcome a net loss. Sarah Beckman made the motion; the motion was seconded by Teresa Colgan. No discussion followed, all were in favor and the motion carried.

**Board Development Committee:**

Chelsea Hillman, Board Development Committee Chair let the board know that Diane Nelson, CEO met with Natalie Fritz from Russell Construction. Chelsea let the board know that the Board Development Committee would be meeting to discuss adding Natalie Fritz on as a board member in July. The board then took time to fill out their annual paperwork.

**Fund Development Update:**

Shelly Wells Cain, CDO updated the board on our events coming up. Our first event is our Lisa Bluder Luncheon on July 1st. our next event is our Cookies and Flights on July 24th at Big Grove and our last event is our Glamp on October 3rd-5th. Shelly also gave an update on Fund Development that all across the board nonprofits are feeling the hit of funding. She did let the board know about birdies for charity, which is a organization in the quad cities that will give us a 5-10% match. She encouraged all board members to give if they hadn’t yet.

**Property Update:**

Stacy Conforti our Chief Property Officer gave an update on summer camp that our registration number was down. Stacy also let us know they had surveyed the parents and girls, and they were all positive results. Stacy also let us know that we are in the process of trying to get the daycare to buy the Rock Island property that they are currently renting from us. Stacy also shared about the camp improvements we have been making at Camp Liberty and Camp Little Cloud.

**Discussion:**

**Delegate Proposal for National Conference:**

Allison Johnson, our Chief Business Officer, presented to the board the Delegate Proposal for National Conference, 2026. The board discussed the positive impact of allowing girls to have one more year as a daisy and also not having to wait until they are in kindergarten if they had a birthday that would affect the cut-off. The only negatives they could come to is that maybe girls might not be mentally ready since they would not be in kindergarten. Mary Ann made the motion that the Board of Directors for the Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois Council support our National Delegates and staff in creating a proposal to the National Convention to expand  the rules of GSUSA to allow for girls aged 5 years or older; or being in Kindergarten to join Girl Scouts, rather than the current requirement that that they at least be in Kindergarten, to join. The Board of Directors for the Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois endorses such a change to GSUSA rules. The motion was seconded by Chelsea Hillman. No discussion followed, all were in favor and the motion carried

**CEO Report:**

Diane Nelson, CEO let our board know we are currently at 10,229 for our membership and we are currently down. We are pushing hard to get to our goal. Diane presented our new staff changes. In doing this we feel this will help move us forward. Diane also presented on how we did with cookies. We ended 2% down for the year. This was across the United States with councils being down way more then we were.

**President Report:**

Tracy Schwind, Board Chair let our board know that in conjugation with Steve Ott a survey was sent out to Girl Scout Staff to complete. This survey will help the board be better to help support our staff. Tracy also updated the board that our July Board meeting would be in the same location as our May. Tracy asked to the board to give their opinion on meeting at camp Liberty for October and no discussion was needed and the meeting will be held at Camp Liberty.

**Adjournment:**

Board Chair, Tracy Schwind asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 PM. Teresa Colgan moved Tray’s motion, the motion was seconded by Sarah Beckman, all agreed unanimously and the motion carried.

Minutes recorded by Mallory West, Executive Assistant.