

New Mexico Foundation for Open Government (NMFOG)
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 28, 2019
12 p.m.
Albuquerque, NM

A regular meeting of the board of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government was held at the offices of the Foundation, notice having been given.

Members Present:

Karen Moses, President; Carl Baldwin, Treasurer; Mike Melody, Secretary; members Jeri Clausing, Viki Harrison (via telephone), Timothy Maestas, Steve McKee (via telephone) Fred Nathan (via telephone), Lucas Peerman, Charles Peifer (via proxy), Bob Trapp, Greg Williams, Joe Zerbas (via telephone).

Members Not Present:

Mary Ann Armijo, Kathi Bearden, Susan Boe, Dede Feldman, Tom Johnson, Henry Lopez, Paula Maes, Rory McClannahan, Kip Purcell, Mary Lynn Roper, Hal Stratton, Dan Yohalem

Staff:

Melanie Majors, Executive Director; Diane Lopez, Marketing and Membership Director, NMFOG

Guests:

Penny Baldwin, Ethan Watson, City of Albuquerque

Call to Order:

A quorum being present, Ms. Moses called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. Ms. Moses welcomed new board members Mary Ann Armijo, Tim Maestas, and Lucas Pearman, asking each to introduce themselves.

Ms. Moses then welcomed Diane Lopez, who had recently joined NMFOG as Marketing and Membership Director, who also introduced herself to the board.

Ms. Moses noted that some board members were in Washington, D.C., attending the annual meeting of the National Association of Broadcasters, and that others were involved with the New Mexico legislative session, and also unable to attend.

Approval of Agenda:

Ms. Moses called for a motion to amend the agenda, to allow Mr. Watson to make his presentation at the outset of the meeting. Mr. Melody moved, Mr. Baldwin seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Moses called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2018 minutes. Mr. Trapp suggested changes to the section dealing with the Three-Year Plan, in order to clarify that the plan as amended at the November meeting, had been approved. Mr. Baldwin moved that the minutes be approved with changes as suggested by Mr. Trapp, Mr. Williams seconded, and motion carried.

Guest Presentation:

Mr. Watson, who heads the City of Albuquerque's effort to become a model of open city government, and compliance with provisions of IPRA and OMA, gave a thorough presentation of the city's efforts, and its plans to further improve. His detailed and informative presentation was well received by the board.

President's Report:

Ms. Moses reported on year-end 2018 financial results in brief, noting that the operating results were better than budgeted, although ending with a deficit, were better than budgeted. She thanked Mr. Baldwin and the Finance Committee for their efforts, particularly on the 2019 budget.

Ms. Moses commented on the current year's focus on increasing membership, and improving membership data collection and retention.

Much of Ms. Moses's presentation focused on a summary of the myriad activities of NMFOG during the legislative session, and thanked in particular the Legislative Committee and Ms. Majors for their excellent work.

Ms. Moses brought to the board's attention the promotional pieces created by Mr. McKee's firm, *pro bono*, to support NMFOG during the legislative session. Some discussion ensued about how best to handle accounting treatment of newspaper space donated to run such promotions. Consensus was that news entities should themselves seek legal counsel.

Ms. Moses handed out a list of board committee assignments for 2019, asking that the members review and suggest any changes they might suggest. The committee assignment list is included by reference.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Baldwin summarized 2018 results, echoing Ms. Moses comments about yearend results being better than anticipated. Significant factors were much reduced expenses compared to budget, offsetting reduced revenues due to staff turnover. He also commented on the current Statement of Financial Position. NMFOG is in excellent shape, with approximately \$143 thousand in current assets, of which \$107 thousand is in the Schwab investment account.

Mr. Baldwin also reported that with Ms. Majors' assistance and that of our newly retained bookkeeping firm, financial information and reporting is much timelier, and that the current year's budget reflects fewer, but more meaningful, line items. A motion to approve the 2019 Budget as finalized and presented by Mr. Baldwin was moved by Mr. Melody, and seconded by Ms. Clausing. After brief discussion, the motion carried.

A discussion ensued about fundraising, particularly on assembling accurate membership and donor lists, and attracting new grants, the latter a focus of Ms. Lopez. Ms. Majors reported on the planned Hackathon, and how it functions.

Executive Director's Report:

Ms. Majors gave a lengthy and detailed report about her many activities since the last board meeting and because Mr. McKee had not yet joined the conference call, also reported on Marketing Committee activities.

Among the more significant items Ms. Majors summarized during the meeting were the hiring of Ms. Lopez, the recruitment of three new board members, exploring a new venue for the Dixon Lunch, the retention of Jason Lopez as lobbyist for NMFOG, speaking before business groups in Albuquerque, and developments for the upcoming Sunshine Week.

During a discussion about fundraising, the importance of the distinction between Members and Donors was emphasized. Some people are both, in that their donations are more than the annual membership dues. Mr. Melody asked if NMFOG accounting would benefit from separate checks for membership and donations, to which the answer was "Yes."

Ms. Majors' written report is included by reference.

Legislative Committee Report:

Mr. Williams reported in some detail on the activities of the committee, and the bills in which NMFOG was especially interested. Among those bills were: HB26, Fees for Public Documents; HB370, Criminal Record Expungement; HB4 and SB619, State Ethics Commission Act; SB259, Disclose Finalists for Appointive Positions; and SB232, Public Records Costs and Procedures. Various board members commented on certain of the bills in which NMFOG is interested.

Legal Affairs Committee:

Mr. Williams reported on legal matters that the committee has been following. He noted that the proposed rule change for juvenile records was not made, a good outcome. He also commented briefly on the Libet vs. Lobo Club matter, still pending in the Court of Appeals.

CLE Committee:

Mr. Williams opened discussion on whether either Spring or Fall was optimal for the annual CLE presentation. He noted the low turnout last November, but opined that may have had to do with the election's demands on potential attendees, and an inadequate marketing effort. After much discussion, it was suggested that the 2019 CLE be held in November, and that the evaluation forms circulated to attendees include a query about which date(s) they would prefer in subsequent years. Further discussion raised the possibility of a two-tiered pricing scheme, allowing those who wished to attend, but were not doing so for CLE credit, attend at a reduced price. Mr. Williams voiced no objection to the idea, which he would raise with the committee.

There being no other business, Mr. Melody moved, and Mr. Baldwin seconded, a motion to adjourn. Ms. Moses adjourned the meeting at 1:46pm.