



Minutes
NMFOG Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, August 19, 2022,
12 – 2 p.m.
NMFOG Office and via Zoom

Directors in attendance in person: Kathi Bearden, Karen Moses, Paula Maes, Rashad Mahmood, Greg Williams, Mary Lynn Roper, Sammy Lopez and Nate Gentry.

Directors in attendance via Zoom: Billie Blair, Susan Boe, Jessica Onsurez, Dede Feldman, Heather Ferguson, Tom Johnson, Henry Lopez, Mike Melody, John Moses, Fred Nathan, Lucas Peerman, Daniel Russell, Kip Purcell, Lori Waldon and Daniel Yohalem

Staff in attendance in person: Melanie J. Majors

Not Present: Alexis Tappan, Carl Baldwin, Chuck Peifer and Kristelle Siarza.
No members of the public in attendance.

A quorum of the FOG Board of Directors being present in person or online, President Bearden called the meeting to order at 12 p.m. Mr. Melody made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Ms. Blair. The agenda was approved.

Ms. Blair motioned for the approval of the draft minutes from the April meeting, and Ms. Roper seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no amendments.

Mr. Melody, a member of the finance committee, presented the budget in Mr. Baldwin's absence. The report included the quarterly financials and budget vs. actuals. NMFOG has current assets of \$379,304.72 with \$192,912.26 earmarked for the sunshine attorney in an investment account. Mr. Melody reported expenditures are on track with the 2022 budget and Ms. Blair asked about donations which total \$14,313.55 against a budget of \$20,000. It was decided to send invoices for the unpaid Legal Initiative pledges after the Dixon luncheon.

Ms. Moses motioned to approve the financials, and Mr. Mahmood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The first committee report was presented by the chair of the Legislative Committee, Mr. Nathan. Touched on the five-year strategic legislative plan presented in April and said that FOG would concentrate on legislative efforts to extend transparency to capital outlay spending. A full plan will be presented at the November meeting.

Mr. Williams presented the Legal Committee report, including FOG's decision to submit an amicus brief in the case of Santa Fe Reporter v City of Santa Fe concerning law enforcement disciplinary records which the Supreme Court will now hear. He also said that the high court will hear arguments in the case, Libet v UNM Foundation and Lobo Club. NMFOG. NMFOG has long been following and had submitted an Amicus Brief in the case. Mr. Williams also briefed the board on the recent Supreme Court decision to shut down a lower court ruling that found GPS records were public, dashing the hopes of law enforcement that wanted easier access to those records for criminal investigations. This ruling came down with no public comment and following an earlier ruling in the Second Judicial District Court that the GPS records were public.

Mr. Purcell gave an update on the lawsuit FOG jointly filed with The New Mexican against the city of Rio Rancho. He said that the City of Rio Rancho has until Aug. 19, 2022 to respond to NMFOG's motion and that a decision was expected on Sept. 9.

Ms. Boe gave the Legal Initiative report and explained that with FOG's fundraising goal for the Legal Director position nearly achieved. She said that NMFOG was applying for additional grants. The subject of pledges came up and it was agreed to put invoicing for pledges on hold. She also said that the hiring process has been put on hold pending the hiring of a new executive director.

Ms. Blair next gave the Fundraising Committee report. Ms. Blair explained that there was a new focus on recurring donations, which offer the benefit of steady revenue for FOG. Ms. Blair told the Board she has recruited five new members and challenged every Director to recruit five additional supporters. Ms. Roper asked if NMFOG had a one-sheet brochure explaining NMFOG and its benefits.

Mr. Lopez said the Marketing Committee was putting together a survey to assess NMFOG's attributes including its value. He said the second stage is to put together the marketing plan which incorporates target audiences, strategies to engage them, and metrics to evaluate success.

Ms. Majors gave the Dixon Award report. The recipients for 2022 include: Byron Marshall, citizen; Kathleen Hager, education; Rep. Marian Matthews and Greg Trapp, government; Thomas Grover, law; and Vincent Rodriguez, media.

Ms. Maes said Dixon Awards event will be Oct. 6 at the Albuquerque Marriott and that Melissa Segura, a Santa Fe native would be the guest speaker. Board members were asked to submit ideas or items for the silent auction. A sponsor flyer and draft letter was distributed to the board.

Ms. Maes presented the final version of the executive director job advertisement including the description. She said NMFOG would post it on the following Monday. Following her report, a lengthy discussion ensued about the position, the former executive director, her exit interview and a memo she wrote on her departure. Several areas were identified including:

- 1) communications between exec committee and board
- 2) ED concerns: spokesperson, board members giving direction, responsibilities
- 3) size of board

4) size of staff (need 2 or 3 - hotline, fundraising)

5) diversity inclusion

The conclusion of the discussion came when Ms. Waldon made a motion postpone the search for an executive director. Ms. Ferguson seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote with seven voting to postpone the search and 13 voting to post the job, the motion died.

Mr. Mahmood then made a motion to form a temporary committee to analyze the duties of the board members, executive committee and the executive director. Ms. Moses seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ms. Bearden asked those in attendance to send their list of concerns.

The board then discussed a fall retreat. Several members asked that diversity be front and center when making the choice of the facilitator.

Ms. Majors presented the Executive Director's report, a copy is attached. She also presented the hotline report and said that about one-third of calls were from journalists, a third from the public and a third from a group of the public who had nowhere else to turn. The board was told that retired journalist Mike Gallagher is assisting with answering the calls.

With no new business and no public comment, Ms. Roper moved to adjourn, and Mr. Lopez. The meeting concluded at 2:05 p.m.