



**New Mexico Foundation for Open Government (NMFOG)  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, May 21, 2020  
12 p.m.  
Albuquerque, NM  
ZOOM Meeting**

A virtual meeting of the board of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government was held via ZOOM, notice having been given.

**Members Attending:**

Susan Boe, President; Mike Melody, Vice-President; Sammy Lopez, Secretary; Carl Baldwin, Treasurer; Directors: Billie Blair, Dede Feldman, Heather Ferguson, Tom Johnson, Henry Lopez, Paula Maes, Steve McKee, Karen Moses, Fred Nathan, Jessica Onsurez, Chuck Peifer, Charles Purcell, Kristelle Siarza, Hal Stratton, Robert B. Trapp, Greg Williams and Daniel Yohalem.

**Members Not Attending:**

Mary Ann Armijo, Kathi Bearden, Lucas Peerman, Tim Maestas and Mary Lynn Roper

**Staff:**

Melanie Majors, Executive Director; Diane Lopez, Membership Director

**Guests:**

Penny Baldwin

**Call to Order:**

A quorum being present, Ms. Boe called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. She welcomed the directors and explained the ground rules for the meeting.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Ms. Boe called for a motion to approve the agenda; Mr. Melody moved; Ms. Blair seconded. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

The board reviewed the minutes from the February 2020 meeting, Ms. Blair made a motion to accept the minutes and Mr. Trapp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**President's Report:**

Ms. Boe reported on the \$15,104 Paycheck Protection Program loan granted to FOG. She directed Ms. Majors to put a memo in the FOG files about the loan. She then asked for a motion from the board to approve the loan. Mr. Nathan made a motion that FOG accept the loan and Ms. Moses seconded. Motion carried.

**Finance Committee Report:**

Mr. Baldwin, Chair, presented the Financial Report. Mike Melody and Bob Trapp are also members of the finance committee. Their first item was the April Statement of Financial Position showing FOG's only liabilities are payroll taxes. FOG shows a balance of \$115,592.25 in reserves with total assets of \$136,347.93. Next Mr. Baldwin focused on the Activity Report comparing the 2019 budget with the actual revenues and expenditures. He told the board there would be uncertainty because of the health pandemic pointing out income from the Dixon luncheon and CLE could not be counted on in 2020 as the Dixon and CLE revenues made up one-quarter of the budget with both events netting income. He included a schedule of month-end bank balances as a separate chart in the financials showing amounts and monthly cash balances.

During the discussion, Mr. Baldwin pointed out the \$15,104 in revenue from the PPP was not included in the amounts for April. Also, during his presentation Mr. Nathan announced that the Thornburg Foundation approved FOG's request for \$30,000.

Mr. Melody made a motion to approve the financial report and Ms. Feldman seconded the motion.

**Executive Director's Report:**

Ms. Majors presented her report to the board prior to the meeting. Her highlights included the Thornburg grant application, securing the PPP loan from US Bank and the New Mexico Attorney General adopting FOG's guidelines for meetings and public records access during the health emergency.

She also included the hotline report in her materials.

**Committee Reports:**

**Dixon Award/Lunch** – The Dixon Award Committee met on May 13 to discuss the 2020 awards and options as FOG moves forward. Because of the current uncertainty, the Committee recommended that FOG open nominations for the Dixon Award later in the year, announce the awards in late 2020 and then make a formal presentation to the recipients in late March.

Ms. Siarza and Mr. Henry Lopez then led a discussion on why the board should explore a virtual event. Mr. Lopez related how he just finished conducting a virtual conversation for NMWO, in partnership with [Native Women Lead](#) and [The Santa Fe New Mexican](#). It

centered on how COVID-19 is impacting communities of self-identifying women and women of color throughout New Mexico, the ways in which grassroots organizations are responding and adapting, and the opportunities this moment presents for building power as a movement. You can view this recorded webinar here:

<https://www.facebook.com/santafenewmexican/videos/235366050862287/>

It was pointed out there's a danger in October about thinking it's the same as now and several indicated people were quite aware that events would be different.

Members suggested it would be possible to sell a "virtual" table and the buyer could give out X number of "tickets" to whomever. Another pointed out that a Storyteller project does something similar and another suggestion recommended that after the event, FOG takes the video, chop it into smaller pieces and use it as an ongoing campaign of storytelling is social media and other distribution.

Mr. Lopez and Ms. Siarza indicated FOG could conduct a similar session for FOG and volunteered to assist the Dixon Committee. The board directed Ms. Majors to reconvene a Dixon Award meeting and report back.

Ms. Feldman thanked Mr. Lopez and Ms. Siarza saying online events are going to become more common that FOG needs to adapt and hone our message about our organization to attract more young people.

It was suggested to consider the event a friendraiser instead of a fundraiser,

**Membership Director's Report** – Ms. Blair gave the membership report highlighting that the committee was working on several fronts including:

- Establishing a monthly on-line giving plan, which has been requested by some and is used successfully in many campaigns.
- Citing the *Rio Grande Sun* settlement award and Bob Trapp's gift of \$500 per month as an example for other members who might be successful in being awarded judgements in IPRA and OMA lawsuits,
- Reinstating more levels of giving: \$50 members, \$250 benefactors.
- Cleaning up the membership list and making special appeals to those who have dropped out over the last three years.
- Asking Board members to help recruit members who have dropped out.

In addition, the Committee decided to distribute a letter to everyone on the current mailing list, which numbers 670, requesting a membership or increased donation, Kyla Thompson drafted the letter and staff deployed the first ask email in regard to the federal stimulus payments on April 27.

**Legal Affairs** – Mr. Williams, chair, reported on an Amicus brief requested as part of the lawsuit Daniel Libbet filed against the UNM Foundation and the UNM Lobo club. The board approved a motion to file an amicus brief in the case. Mr. Purcell abstained from a vote on this item.

**Marketing Committee** – Mr. McKee, chair, showed the board the new print ads his office prepared for FOG. He also provided information on the radio and television ads.

**Legislative Committee** – The Santa Fe New Mexican and several other newspapers throughout the state printed an Op-Ed Ms. Boe wrote about opening up the budget process. A link to the piece is on the website. In addition, Ms. Boe thanked the members of the legislative committee saying the committee met almost every night during the 2020 session and she appreciated all of the hard work. There was additional discussion about the upcoming special session set to begin on June 18. Questions were raised about the process, whether citizens would be able to comment and the technical capacities at the Statehouse. In addition, it was discussed that the Legislative Council Service has adopted the best practices from the National Council of Legislatures.

**New Business** – There was no new business.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.  
Respectfully,

Sammy Lopez  
Secretary

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