



Minutes
NMFOG Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, January 18, 2024
12 – 2 p.m.
FOG Office and via Zoom

Directors in attendance in person: Jessica Onsurez, Karen Moses, , Lucas Peerman, Chris Keller, Kristelle Siarza Moon, Wende Schwingendorf, Barbara Vigil and Greg Williams.

Directors in attendance via Zoom: Charles Peifer, Daniel Russell, Mary Lynn Roper, Rashad Mahmood, Daniel Yohalem and Kip Purcell.

Staff in attendance in person: Melanie J. Majors. Amanda Lavin.

Not Present: Nate Gentry, , Paula Maes, and Rebecca Valdez.

A quorum of the FOG Board of Directors being present in person and online, President Onsurez called the meeting to order at 12 p.m. Mr. Peerman made a motion to approve the agenda, Ms. Schwingendorf seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mr. Mahmood presented the minutes. Ms. Moses made a motion to approve the minutes which were seconded by Mr. Peerman, motion carried.

Treasurer Lopez gave the Finance Committee Report. The report included the quarterly financials and budget vs. actuals. He said we were short in donations, but made up through a grant and other efforts for total income up \$4,000 over 2022. FOG has current assets of \$413,566.32 with \$198,055.73 earmarked for the sunshine attorney in an investment account. He noted expenses were down from what was budgeted for net income of \$21,000. Mr. Lopez reported \$55,098.98 in the checking account. Ms. Siarza made a motion to accept the financial report which was seconded by Ms. Bearden, motion carried.

In addition to the reports, Mr. Lopez provided the board with a budget for the 2024 calendar year. He said one item that stands out is that the budget changed the line item for donation to membership and supporters. He said the First Amendment Champions are the Albuquerque Journal and the New Mexico Press Association. The New Mexico Broadcasters are in-kind First Amendment Champion. The budget reflects a separate section for the Legal Director.

There was discussion of seeking new revenue sources as luncheons do not bring in the amounts they once did. Ms. Majors thanked Mr. Lopez for his work.

Mr. Peerman made a motion to approve the budget which were seconded by Ms. Vigil, motion carried.

President's Report – Ms. Onsurez gave an overview of a recent executive board meeting. The budget will be presented for review and approval at the next FOG board meeting. Discussion centered on revenues and ways to increase revenues in 2024. Suggestions include:

- hosting a CLE event,
- increasing the number of items for sale at the silent auction at the 2024 Dixon luncheon,
- hosting small forums/seminars during the year, and
- seeking additional grants was also discussed with the FOG Membership/Fundraising group to look at grants offered by the McCune Foundation, Santa Fe Community Foundation and the NFOIC. The Marketing Committee has proposed several activities as part of Sunshine week.

She announced **Committee Chairs**:

Dixon Luncheon – Ms. Schwingendorf

Dixon Awards – Mr. Peerman

Legal – Mr. Williams

Marketing – Ms. Siarza Moon

Fundraising/Membership – Mr. Mahmood

Finance – Mr. Lopez

Nominating – Ms. Moses

Legislative – open

Legal – Mr. Williams relayed how excited the legal committee and the legal search committee were that Amanda Lavin was on board. She will be meeting with FOG board members, local citizens. Ms. Lavin will be working to prepare the 2024 CLE. Mr. Yohalem reminded the board that Ms. Lavin and others should meet soon after the legislative session to work on a long-term strategy on crucial litigation issues. The board agreed.

Marketing Committee -- The Marketing Committee proposed several activities as part of Sunshine week. The items include:

- hosting a Transparency Day Happy Hour to begin those outreach efforts
- drafting an opinion piece about the lack of transparency around NextRequest public records systems that municipalities and governments are using to manage public records requests. On the one hand, it allows the public to submit more public records requests than ever, and to see what others are requesting. However, when records are released, they are made available only to the requester when they could be made available to anyone that wants to create an account,
- updating FOG's ads,
- penning an Op-Ed,
- shortening the current FOG video,
- developing Social Media - IPRA cards, and

Legislature – Ms. Majors gave an overview of the legislation FOG was watching during the session. This included:

HB 157 introduced by Rep. Martin Zamora (R- Curry, DeBaca, Guadalupe, Roosevelt & San Miguel) which would allow public school employees to carry firearms after receiving training. The bill asks for an additional exemption to IPRA as information about the training and employees in the program. The bill states, " The identity of a school employee appointed under this section is part of a confidential tactical plan or procedure and shall not be disclosed in a request made pursuant to the Inspection of Public Records Act."

HB 175 introduced by Rep. Marian Mathews (D-Bernalillo) clarifies language relating to the children's code; specifying to whom and under what circumstances information that is held by CYFD that pertains to child abuse or neglect may be shared; requiring that information be provided about child fatalities or near fatalities; protecting personal identifier information of department clients; requiring the court's written order when excluding media from an abuse or neglect proceeding, which is appealable; requiring reports on the CYFD website; and penalties for non-compliance.

Sb 6 introduced by Sen. Katy Duhigg (D-Bernalillo) explains in detail cannabis regulations. This bill includes the Cannabis Regulation Act in the Racketeering Act, the Delinquency Act and the Uniform Licensing Act. The bill asks for a new exemption to IPRA to keep confidential information developed or obtained by the Cannabis Control Division during an enforcement investigation.

She also talked about way to get Ms. Lavin more publicity. She also said the new FOG website is up.

Mr. Keller talked about a form he has developed for making public records requests.

Executive Director Report – The report was provided to all of the members, it is attached along with the hotline report. She did share the draft annual report – an item in the three-year plan and the marketing committee. She also said the results of the survey would be released.

There was no new business and no public comments. Ms. Moses made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Lopez seconded, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

The other meetings for 2024 are April 26, 2024; August 9, 2024 and Dec. 6, 2024.