

Governing Board Meeting Summary

embrace colorado

September 10, 2008

7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Egg & I Restaurant

Windsor, CO

Members Present:

Glenn Vaad
Milan Karspeck
Bill Kaufman
Ed Starck

Members Absent:

Louis Swanson
Tom Selders

Staff Present:

John Daggett

Guests:

Meg Corwin

Call to Order

Acting Chair Kaufman called the meeting to order at 7:10 a.m.

Minutes from August 5, 2008

Acting Secretary Karspeck moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Member Vaad seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

CDOT Contract

Daggett explained that staff had just met with a large entourage of auditors, project staff, and accountants from CDOT and a representative of the Federal Highway Administration to review the proposed contracting arrangement between Embrace Colorado and the State. There were many concerns expressed from the standpoint that the State generally does not contract directly with nonprofits and especially that Embrace Colorado was a new nonprofit without much track record.

Daggett shared the North Front Range Transportation & Air Quality Planning Council (NFRMPO) resolution with the Board. The resolution identifies nine-points for the general relationship the NFRMPO approved as a part of it providing \$200,000 in federal funds for Embrace Colorado to begin its visioning effort.

Daggett also shared a draft scope of work he proposed for use with the State for the work to be done by Embrace Colorado. He explained that the work was consistent with the work that would be needed to move the visioning effort forward in the first (start up) year.

Board members discussed contracting with the State and the challenges inherent in such a relationship for a nonprofit. The Board also briefly discussed the scope of work understanding that it was still being negotiated.

Mission Statement

Board members continued work on a draft mission statement.

Daggett reminded the Board members that the exercise to examine and create a mission was based on answering four questions:

1. Purpose: Why does **embrace colorado** exist?
2. Action: What will you do to achieve your purpose?
3. Beneficiaries: Who will benefit?
4. Values: What beliefs guide your work?

Board members discussed their ideas related to the current draft. The mission statement currently reads:

"Embrace Colorado seeks to facilitate a respectful and constructive conversation among the citizens of Northern Colorado to create a region rich in opportunity, diversity, and quality of life for all our citizens based on our common heritage."

Board members offered the following ideas and felt the Board should continue to work on the mission as the Board increased in size. The members present agreed to think about improvements to the mission statement.

- “Seek to facilitate over a period of time”
- “There are phases to this effort”
- “Develop a vision with a period certain”
- “What lengths of time we are talking about?”
- “Goods, services, and people...”
- “Keep it short and succinct”

Board Membership

The Board discussed three new Board nominees. They are 1) John Kefalas, State Representative; 2) Angela Milewski, Principal with BHA Design; and 3) Rocky Scott, Principal with McWhinney Corporation. Each name was placed in nomination followed by a brief discussion. Acting Treasurer Ed Starck made the motion to accept each candidate for the Board. Acting Secretary Milan Karspeck seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Chair Kaufman then led a discussion based on the Board membership matrix. A number of potential candidates were identified and discussed and Board members asked that those names be added to the matrix. Each Board member committed to contacting candidates to explore their interest in Embrace Colorado and the work effort ahead. Some of the new Board members were also “volunteered” for service via existing members. Those assignments are as follows:

- Bill:
 - John Blair, Investment Banker, Home State Bank
 - Jim Disney, Former Larimer County Commissioner
- Ed:
 - Kay Drake, Former Windsor HS Principal
- Ed w/Rocky's help
 - Kevin Cory, Vestas Corporation
- John:

- United Way of Larimer County (Mary Atchinson or Gordon Thibedeau)
- Glenn
 - Tom Heron, Ag Professionals
 - Bill Markham, Farmer
- Lou
 - Marsi Liddell, Aims Community College
 - Kay Norton, University of Northern Colorado
 - Dave Edwards, Community Foundation of Northern Colorado
- Milan w/Angie's help
 - Kim Jordon, New Belgium Brewery

Board members also discussed utilities, health, and other professional representation on the Board and identified a number of other regional names. Daggett introduced the notion of having honorary Board members/chairs as a way to involve people who could not otherwise participate due to time constraints, but could put their name behind Embrace Colorado and support the effort none-the-less.

Budget & Fundraising

Daggett presented four budgets with varying start dates for the Board to consider. In each case the start date changed one month into the future. The budgets started on October 1, November 1, December 1, and January 1. Each of the budgets is dependent on two revenue outcomes: 1) securing a grant contract with the CDOT for federal funds and 2) raising local funding in ample amounts for start up, operating, cash flow and matching funds. Daggett estimated that the amount of local funds needed would be at least \$75,000.

The Board discussed the challenges and opportunities related to fundraising. Daggett suggested a committee of the Board be established to complete a fundraising plan for the Board to consider. Daggett said he would follow up with members about serving on the committee.

Next Meeting

The meeting time and location were adequate according to the members. A similar time and day of the week will work for all who were present. Meetings will continue on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. at the Windsor Egg & I Restaurant (1205 Main Street, Windsor CO). Daggett suggested that this item be revisited at each Board meeting as the Board expands in size.

There was no other business. Daggett thanked all who attended for their input and enthusiasm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.