

embrace northern colorado

choosing our future

Members & Board of Directors Meeting Summary

December 14, 2009

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

UNC Center

2915 Rocky Mountain Avenue

Loveland, CO

Members Present:

Kim Larson

Mike Geile

Ed Goodman

Glenn Vaad

John Coppom

Dave Edwards

Members Absent:

Teresa Tellechea

Rocky Scott

Milan Karspeck

Gordon Thibedeau

John Kefalas

Angela Milewski

Louis Swanson

Bill Kaufman

Staff Present:

John Daggett

Guests:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Glenn Vaad.

Approval of Minutes

John Coppom moved and Milan Karspeck seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the October 19th meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Nomination & Election of Officers

John Coppom explained that he and Angela Milewski contacted all Board members to assess their interest in serving as officers of the corporation. He explained that many felt that they were too new to the organization to tackle the job of being an officer, but were supportive of those who did.

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No one wanted to run for chair, but both Swanson and Milewski were willing to assume the responsibilities of the position if they had help and both were willing to serve as Co-Chairs of Embrace Northern Colorado. The Board discussed the pros and cons of having Co-Chairs. It was unanimously agreed that co-chairs was a workable solution and could prove to be advantageous to the organization. Members felt it was important that the two develop a working partnership and an understanding how they would handle making decisions and sharing responsibilities.

Coppom reported that Vaad had indicated that he would accept the nomination for Vice Chair. Vaad acknowledged he was willing to serve in that capacity, but reminded the group that he would be somewhat unavailable during the legislative session which runs from January 13th through mid May.

Coppom volunteered to serve as Treasurer and Karspeck had previously agreed to serve as Secretary for another one-year term.

Edwards moved and Coppom seconded a motion to elect the five candidates. The motion passed unanimously. The 2010 Executive Committee (corporate officers) for Embrace Northern Colorado is:

Co-Chair	Angela Milewski
Co-Chair	Louis Swanson
Vice Chair	Glenn Vaad
Secretary	Milan Karspeck
Treasurer	John Coppom

Board Nominations

Daggett reported that Gordon Thibedeau had enthusiastically accepted his appointment to the Board, but explained that Thibedeau is already committed on the third Monday of the month at 4:00 p.m. Daggett explained the results of the Board survey taken in December that indicated that the 2nd Monday would work for all members. The Board acknowledged the results and set the next meeting for January 11th and subsequent meetings for the 2nd Monday of the month through 2010.

The Board also discussed the status of Bill Kaufman. Daggett explained that Swanson had attempted to reach Kaufman on several occasions, but had not successfully communicated with him about his seat. Several members expressed their appreciation for the role Kaufman had played in serving as Embrace Northern Colorado's first chair.

Members discussed whether Kaufman could support Embrace Northern Colorado better as a member, an ex-officio member or as a non-member. Daggett and Vaad volunteered to try to reach Kaufman after the holidays to assess his interests.

Daggett reminded the group that if Kaufman chose not to continue on the Board there would be a seat remaining to be filled. He recommended that the seat be filled with a Weld County resident in the interest of balance on the Board. The Board concurred.

Budget & Financials

Daggett reported that as of November 30, 2009 Embrace Northern Colorado had \$1,885 cash on hand, \$8,000 provided YTD in in-kind and pro bono services with ongoing commitments of approximately \$29,000/year, and a \$200,000 executed federal grant contract which is pending for lack of cash match.

Edwards noted and Daggett confirmed that Embrace Northern Colorado needed to begin expending the federal funds within the next several months or lose them. Daggett shared a conversation with CDOT he had in early December and explained that it was likely that the \$200,000 in federal funds would be “at risk” beginning in February 2010 if Embrace Northern Colorado had not begun expending the money. Daggett explained that the contract ties a majority of eligible expenses to salary and that the Board would need to hire staff in some capacity in order to begin incurring contract eligible expenses.

Vaad reported that one donor contribution is pending and that others have been identified and would be approached soon. Geile concurred and agreed to help Vaad “follow up” with potential donors.

Board members had an extensive conversation about fundraising and the need to pursue cash resources in the near-term. Larson expressed some concern that the available time frame for the use of federal funds was very short and that raising cash resources would be difficult in such a short period. The Board agreed that action was urgent and that they would need to plan and act at their January meeting.

The Board discussed the joint meeting with the community foundations. Most felt that the meeting was very positive and that progress had been made getting the three organizations focused on regional issues. Daggett reported that the community foundation Boards would meet later in the week and said he would follow up with the foundation Presidents.

Vaad asked whether it was likely that there might be some financial contribution from the foundations, explaining that it would make other donors more likely to contribute. Daggett and Edwards said they were cautiously optimistic, but Daggett felt the Board would likely need to produce additional funds, not unlike the federal match requirement.

Larson asked whether the Board had been approached about contributing. Daggett said that the original members had contributed in 2009 to the organization through individual “vesting”. The Board suggested that the co-chairs encourage each board member make an annual financial (cash) gift that was meaningful and significant by their own standard and on top of any other fundraising they would be engaged in.

Edwards asked Daggett to clarify his position stating that there was some confusion over the status of his contract with Embrace Northern Colorado and that there was some concern that resources were being obligated under the contract leaving reduced resources for the coming year.

Daggett explained that the personnel contract had been approved by the Board, that the Board had offered the Executive Director position and he was operating in good faith that resources could be found to execute the contract. He also explained that no resources were being obligated in advance of the contract's execution and that his time commitment to date was purely voluntary although he hoped that some acknowledgement of his effort might be recognized by the Board.

Daggett also reported that the federal government would allow the volunteer time to be used as match for the federal funds.

Project Status

Daggett explained that most of the preparatory work for the projects had been completed to the degree possible without resource. He explained that initial planning was complete for the social networking study and that a team had been identified to complete the work. He reported that research was complete on a quality of life indicators report, but that a public process and the Initiating Committee would be required to guide and complete the effort.

Daggett explained that a request for proposals had been written for the web portal project and a preferred vendor identified. He hoped that project could be launched quickly after operating cash resources were secured. Daggett also explained that a baseline trend analysis would need to wait until the completion of the indicators project because many of the needed metrics would be produced during that initial project and then expanded during the trends effort.

Daggett also stated that many improvements had been made to the organization's website and encouraged members to visit it and become familiar with the many resources that reside there.

Adjourn

After extensive wishes for happy holidays, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.