

VOLUNTEER LOUISIANA COMMISSION
PROVISIONAL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, December 10, 2014
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA
701 NORTH FOURTH STREET
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Commissioners Attending:

Voting Members

Karen Moss Barnes
Julie Cherry
Monica Bradsher
Dr. Leroy Davis
Shannon Deitz
Dr. Jennifer Falls
Gene Grabbe
Jenny Korner
Teresa Micheels
Dena Cristy
William Stoudt
Fabian Tucker

Ex-Officio Members

Vickie Schenk

Commissioner Absent

Sharon Weston Broome
David Conner
BJ Gallent
Chris Gorman
Robert Lancon
Kathy Lenard
Ann Masden
Mike Manning

Staff Attending:

Judd Jeansonne
Jawonna Mason
Stephanie Trahan
Nicholas Auck

Staff Absent:

None

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Julie Cherry called the meeting to order at 10:08 am

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Chair Julie Cherry noted that a quorum was not present and that official business would be postponed. She reviewed the year's achievements including Janet Pace's departure and Judd Jeansonne's appointment as Executive Director. Other achievements include Mayor's day of recognition, The Leaders Against Litter project with Keep Louisiana Beautiful, the 2nd Annual Legislative Service Challenge to collect children's books, a strong showing for Louisiana in Competitive funding from CNCS was announced, and one new program and three planning grants were funded, over \$50,000 in mini-grant funding for service projects, the 2014 Volunteer Generation Fund award, and the AmeriCorps 20th Anniversary celebration. Commissioners were reminded to complete their online Ethics training.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Judd Jeansonne recognized the 2014 officers serving in their last meeting, Julie Cherry as Chair, Jenny Korner as Vice Chair, Ann Masden as Treasurer, and Fabian Tucker as Secretary. Judd asked Commissioners to complete a survey on Commissioner Engagement. The Director's Report was

paused for a Roll Call of Commissions to determine quorum and business action items to be voted on.

Roll Call:

The Commissioners Roll was called and a quorum was declared with 11 Commissioners present.

ACTION ITEMS:

The Chair asked the Secretary to present the minutes from the June 18, 2014 meeting for acceptance by the Commission. Shannon Dietz made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Monica Bradsher – Minutes approved.

The Chair asked the Secretary to present the minutes from the September 17, 2014 meeting for acceptance by the Commission. Julie Cherry made a motion to accept the minutes and the motion was seconded by Jenny Korner – Minutes Approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Jenny Korner presented the Treasurer’s Report. Monica Bradsher questioned the match for Community in School’s 2013-14 AmeriCorps grant. It was explained that the program provides reports of match continually through the grant, and the expenses are claimed later in the program year. Monica Bradsher also noted that we had overspent on Professional Services in the Volunteer Generation Fund (2010-2012). The explanation was given that mini-grants do not have a specific category and OMF puts them in the Professional Service Category. Shannon Dietz asked what the cost is and the ending date of the HandsOn Technology piece of the website. Judd responded that there are two pieces to the contract, annual license and the service technology, which costs approximately \$40,000 per year with an annual contract. Monica Bradsher moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report and was seconded by Jennifer Falls. Motion Passed. Treasurer’s Report Approved.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Fabian Tucker was asked to read the Report and slate of Nominees: Chair - William Stoudt, Vice Chair - Jenny Korner, Treasurer - Ann Masden and Secretary - Karen Moss-Barnes. The Chair entertained nominations for the floor. None appearing, Dr. Leroy Davis moved that the Committee’s report be accepted and the nominees be elected by acclamation; seconded by Fabian Tucker – Motion Passed.

AMERICORPS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Shannon Dietz presented the recommendations for FY15 Competitive Funding from the AmeriCorps Committee. The committee recommended all three (3) Continuation applications (Playworks, Project Homecoming, Teach for America) be submitted for Competitive Continuation consideration; that 3 new and re-compete applications be submitted for Competitive funding consideration (City Year, Boys & Girls Club of Southeast Louisiana, and Project Homecoming); and that the Relay Graduate School of Education application be submitted for a Competitive Fixed Amount grant /Education Award Only grant. The Motion was made by Shannon Dietz, seconded by Monica Bradsher. Julie Cherry asked if this was the first year that page length was being emphasized. Stephanie Trahan report that it is the second year and that there were some challenges

in providing additional information not previously requested (theory of change in particular) which led to lengthy submissions. William Stoudt asked about those applications that exceeded the length requirement. Stephanie reported that there were additional points that may be received if they had been able to meet the length requirement as well that the negotiation letters would provide an opportunity to edit their responses to the appropriate length. Judd Jeansonne covered a meeting that he participated in which demonstrated that the Corporation's guidelines for reporting outcomes (assessments) are going to handicap smaller AmeriCorps programs without the resources to develop an evaluation of their program and the impact made on the community. Shannon Dietz and several other Commissioners expressed concern about the impact on locally-based AmeriCorps. Jennifer Falls suggested finding retired educators or others who might volunteer to do evaluations for state programs and reduce the burden on small programs. Monica Bradsher noted that strategically, the Committee considers the likelihood of competitive funding as a factor in its decision-making. She noted that new programs do not have the evaluation requirement and might have more success nationally. Motion to Accept the Committee's Recommendations Passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Fabian Tucker introduced Ms. Danielle Dore who is attending virtual school and is in Baton Rouge on a field trip. Ms. Dore said she enjoys the virtual school except sometimes not having a teacher, but she enjoys being in an advanced curriculum.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Judd then completed his report with a discussion of placing Commissioner's Biographies to be placed on the Commission's website. Also for distribution during lunch, a committee preference sheet will be provided to each Commissioner. In 2015, seven (7) Commissioners' terms will expire. These Commissioners were thanked for their service and the areas that need to be filled were discussed for possible Commissioners. Jenny Korner asked about the status of the Volunteer Louisiana Foundation. Judd informed the Commission the paperwork had been filed by Camm Morton, but that the IRS had not yet acted. Judd discussed Operation AmeriCorps which is a multi-stream AmeriCorps program to address a single issue. The Applicant (tribal or local government) must apply for one of two areas, placement in school/national service/military service after high school, or 'create your own'. Judd reported on the Volunteer Generation Fund Awarded for 2014-2015 funding year and the Volunteer Management System and volunteer opportunities posted. The goal is to have at least one opportunity per parish by February 1, 2015 and then roll out a media campaign to drive individuals to the website. Finally, it was noted that during desk audits, additional review and technical assistance would be provided to Catholic Charities of New Orleans, which is currently a funded AmeriCorps program.

CALENDAR REVIEW:

The upcoming calendar events were reviewed. Ms. Jenny Korner asked if we have the date set for the Legislative Challenge Day; Ms. Stephanie said that the date is usually close to AmeriCorps Week.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting ended at 12:41 pm.