



Statewide SEFA Council

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Tom Wickerham
Chair

Statewide SEFA Council Meeting
November 19, 2015
1:00 PM
Approved Minutes

Pete DeCicco
Vice-Chair

Cornelia Mead
Secretary

Suzanne Maloney
Director

Council In Attendance

Tom Wickerham
Matt Ecker
Nick LaMorte
Furn Lorento
Pete DiCicco
Cornelia Mead
Cherice Granger
Bill Ferguson

Staff

Suzanne Maloney
Sheila O'Cononor

Guests

1. Draft minutes from July 23 were reviewed. Moved by Furn Lorento, seconded by Pete DeCicco to accept the minutes as drafted, motion carried. No changes.
Draft minutes from October 27 were reviewed. Moved by Pete, seconded by Cherice Granger to accept the minutes as drafted, motion carried. No changes.
2. Report from the Chair:
 - RFA for statewide FCCM - we received four requests for applications, and two applications were submitted. Council vote taken at last meeting. United Way of Greater Capital Region (UWGCR) will be new FCCM beginning in January, for three year (renewable) term.
 - Currently working on transition. Earthshare and UWGCR working on a plan together, Tom has asked this plan to be presented to the Council by December 11th.
 - Then we will need to develop MOU with UWGCR. Tom asked for volunteers to help, Caroline volunteered, he could also use more help if any Council members would come forward.
 - Bill Ferguson as chair as the finance committee is preparing to begin budget process with UWGCR, he has contact name there.
 - Tom has contacted OGS to let them know of the pending transition, Bill Mayer has recommended that we have an attorney review our MOU. Tom has asked for help from his own regional attorney in his office. Any thoughts on attorney resources? Comment from Bill Ferguson - our statewide budget is "tight", he thinks it's a good idea to use a state employee attorney as Tom has. Other thought would be to solicit help from the attorney general's office. Joe Guastella - asked who reviewed the MOU with Earthshare. At the time, Nick thinks Dave Watson reviewed it. (He is no longer practicing however, was with firm Watson & West). Bill asked what was the cost of the attorney consultation at that time? We paid Watson and West a retainer fee at the time per Suzanne. Suzanne also suggested NY State Law Board which has a pro bono division we might use. Suggested Tom continue to use the DEC resource. If something else is needed, the council can pursue other resources. (He will let us know via email.) General Council consensus that having legal review of the MOU is a good idea.
3. Director's Report:
 - Recertification - Suzanne posted updated list of charities who have recertified to date.
 - Recertification information has been posted on the web for a number of weeks. Searchable list of charities, if they are not there they need to apply, if they are there they need to recertify. (Recertification ends on Nov 30)



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- 1678 charities have recertified, of 2903 listed in 2015 brochure.
 - 17 new charities have applied via the application process (applications accepted thru mid-January).
4. Renumbering Project - Pete DeCicco:
 - Working on this, focusing on making the system user-friendly, donor-friendly.
 - Considering sending out an email to all charities explaining we want to move to a single code per EIN, and see what feedback we get from charities. Marilyn said she has asked the staff at her United Way about what impact this would have. Lauralee suggested it be expanded to a survey asking the organizations how they actually distribute the donations.
 - Discussion ensued about which charities we would ask, how we would select them, and what exactly would we ask, and what would we do with the information? Various large charities have different organization models and would be impacted differently.
 - Pete and the committee will continue working on the project.
 5. Bill Ferguson - Finance Committee:
 - Has contact name at UWGCR and will be reaching out soon.
 - Asked if there is any financial report available from Sheila or Suzanne? Nothing offered.
 - Reminded the Council that we have asked for bank statements from Earthshare to ease the transition and we're still awaiting those.
 6. Any other items from the floor?
 - Joe G asked coordinators to give an update on how the campaign is going in their areas this year? Still too early to tell, but several areas seem like they'll be flat, and hope they'll make their goal. Most areas around half of their goal at this point.
 - Tom commented that at the October meeting which took place at the PEF headquarters, they had an opportunity to chat with the new PEF chair.

Motion to adjourn by Cornelia, seconded by Pete.
Meeting adjourned at 2:34 pm