

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 5, 2024 :: 3:30 PM :: Carol's House

Call to Order and Roll Call The meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm. Board members in attendance were Carol Munro, Larry Johnson, Michele Johnson, Michael Faulkner, Tom Eich, Jeff Hoffman (via zoon) and David Carlson (via zoom).

Guests: Todd Verwers

Acceptance of Agenda: The Agenda was accepted as proposed.

Public Comments: Todd Verwers said he wanted to get a better understanding of the organization, and so decided to participate via zoom today.

Review and Approval of Minutes of April 17, 2024

It was **Moved/Seconded/Carried** to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2024 meeting as proposed.

Treasurer Report

Copies of the June 5, 2024 Financial Statement were emailed out in advance. Larry Johnson reported that the total income to date is \$85,251.67. Expenditures totaled \$16,763.69, leaving a balance of \$68,487.98.

Since the last meeting, new income included \$100 in dues and \$75 in donations. Expenditures during this period included \$4,387.30 for the Little Free Library Neighborhood Initiative, and \$118.47 for equipment to replace the two faulty portable microphones.

Communications/Marketing

Larry reported that the Calendar Worksheet of Events/Meetings/Communications for FY 24-25 was included in the meeting packet.

He suggested that we use this worksheet during today's meeting as we discuss upcoming meetings and events dates.

Carol thanked Michael Faulkner for his efforts in taking over the Communications Officer responsibilities from Jeffery Burnell. Michael said that he is getting up to speed, and thanked Jeffery for his ongoing technical assistance as needed. He said we have now grown our Instagram account to 1,220 followers. One problem has been trying to get access to our Facebook account, but so far attempts to access the admin function have been unsuccessful.

Larry said that the Administrative Documents sub-committee would be meeting soon to discuss and develop recommendations for how best to provide Board members with password protected access to organizational administrative documents.

Little Free Library

Carol reported that the Little Free Library Dedication on May 14, 2024 was a big success. Over 50 people attended the unveiling. The brief program was well received. All the speakers did a great job. As always, the food from Aspen Mills was delicious. She noted that we received good media coverage.

She thanked everyone involved in organizing the event including Larry for coordinating the logistics and getting the City to block off the street. Given the warm weather, having the two tents set up provided welcome shade. She thanked Ocotillo Lodge that loaned us the chairs for under the tents.

In response to a number of questions related to how the Little Library functions, a follow-up email notice was sent out to the membership.

COD staff will be coming back to install the permanent plaque at the base of the library and install the magnet closures on the acrylic doors.

Community Grants

An application for \$2,500 from the Palm Springs Modern Committee (PSMD) for the BEAM program was received recently. This architectural education program provides students with the tools to understand and appreciate the benefits of great design, planning, and architecture, and how these things are part of their own heritage in the Coachella Valley.

Larry Johnson, our Community Grants Coordinator, reported on the results of the independent reviews of the Community Grant BEAM program application from PSMC. The application was reviewed by all 8 board members and three Grant Review advisors. Based on the ratings on the 8 questions on the rating form, the application received a score of 410 out of 440 possible points (93.2%). On the one question overall rating question, the application received a score of 100 out of 110 possible points (90.9%).

The Board also reviewed the questions raised by the reviewers. The primary question related to the size of the budget for the BEAM program. Carol shared with the Board that the program was primarily operated by volunteers. The total annual budget is about \$15,000 a year. Our funds will be used to update the student workbook and other program operation expenses. She also addressed the question of how students are selected to participate. The program is presented to students in high school art classes.

After review and discussion, it was **Moved/Seconded/Carried** to approve the Community Grant application of the Palm Springs Modernism Committee for \$2,500 for the BEAM program. There was one abstention.

Larry said that he would follow up with drafting the award letter, Grant Acknowledgement Agreement, and Final report form. He will work with Carol in notifying PSMC of the grant award and arranging for getting them the grant award check.

24-25 Organizational Objectives

Carol said that a draft of the 2024-25 Organizational Objectives was included in the emailed pre-meeting packet. The Board reviewed the suggested changes which seemed reasonable.

Under Encourage Neighborhood Identity, it was agreed to add “Explore participation in Fall Modernism Week,” and add “maintain” under the objective for the Little Free Library.

Under Build a Sense of Community within the Neighborhood, delete “Maintain liaison with the Fire Chief of Fire Station 4” and incorporate under Facilitate interaction with the City of Palm Springs.

Under Facilitate Interaction with the City of Palm Springs, delete both “Invite city officials to attend Twin Palms events as appropriate” and “Hold at least 1 meeting a year with our assigned police liaisons.” Replace with “Foster relations with city officials, police, and fire, and invite them to attend TPNO events as appropriate.”

Jeff Hoffman said that he thought that the content of the objectives was fine, but that he suggested that we should consider changing the wording of some of the objectives to align better with our pending new corporate status as a 501 (C) (4). He offered to edit the document with the above changes and send it out in the next week or 2 to the Board for their review. This was agreed to, and the Board tabled final action of the FY 24-25 Objectives until the next meeting.

2025 Modernism Tour

Carol said it was already time to begin identifying potential homes for the 2025 tour, and then selecting the homes to include in the tour. It was agreed that the goal would be 6 homes, with a mix of Krisel and non-Krisel homes and 1 unit at Ocotillo Lodge.

She identified a number of homes and condos that might be possibilities. Several board members suggested additional possibilities. Tom Eich volunteered to work with Carol on investigating these homes/condos and report back at our next meeting.

Carol reported that Michele Johnson is phasing out as volunteer coordinator and that Michael Faulkner would be taking the lead for 2025. He said he had big shoes to fill. Michele was thanked for her tireless work over the years to recruit the necessary 60+ volunteers needed each year to pull off our home tours.

Carol outlined the general timeline and steps involved in submitting our application for the 2025 home tour to Modernism Week.

Michael Faulkner asked if we should consider doing some kind of tour during the upcoming Fall 2024 Modernism Week in October. We have never done anything in the Fall, but other entities have held events in our neighborhood. One idea was an early evening tour so people could see some of the many homes that are lit up so dramatically at night, maybe done in conjunction with the Ocotillo Lodge. Carol said that she would check with Modernism staff to see what the timeline was for proposing an event in the Fall.

501 (C) (4) Status

Jeff Hoffman reported on our status. Turns out the reason we have not heard back on the paper application we mailed in several months ago is because recent changes require that the application be filed on line. He said he has now redone the application and it has been filed online. While the application is 76 pages long, he said it is pretty straight forward. So far the only organizational document required is our By-Laws.

Jeff said that he has made several calls to the IRS. Specifically, he asked about the requirement to file for the tax-exempt status within 60 days of forming the organization, which in our case was about 10 years ago. He was told that the maximum penalty for late filing was \$5,000. Since we have put aside reserve funds for that possibility, worse case we have the funds to pay the penalty if it is imposed.

He said he hoped to hear something back on our application in the next month or two. In the meantime, he said he would send a PDF version of the application to all the board members so we could familiarize ourselves with it.

Jeff was thanked for all his work on this important effort.

Next Meetings

After discussing several dates, it was decided to hold the next Advisory Board meeting on Wednesday, July 31, 2024 at 3:30 pm at Carol's house.

Larry Johnson said that historically the Board has not meet during the month of August. He suggested that the Board tentatively set the date for the September meeting, and suggested September 11th or 18th. No final decision was made, but members were asked to try to keep both dates open until we finalize the date at the July 31st meeting.

Larry distributed copies of the Events/Meetings Worksheet with his suggestions for dates for the Fall General Membership meeting and the January 2025 General membership meeting. He suggested that we set the date for the Fall General Membership meeting at the July 31st meeting so we could lock in a location and speakers. Considering the upcoming elections in early November, he suggested we hold the Fall meeting on either October 19th or 26th. The 26th did not work for several members. Concern was raised by Carol that meeting in October might affect attendance as some part-time residents do not come back until November. No final decision was made, but there was agreement we need to finalize the date as soon as possible.

As to the January General Membership Social meeting, Larry suggested we consider January 11, 2025 to avoid a meeting too close to the Presidential Inauguration on January 20th. No date was finalized.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 pm.

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APPROVED