ACB of Maine
Special Board Meeting
November 12, 2020

ACB of Maine Minutes: 11/12/2020
Submitted: 12/3/2020

Sherry called for a brief Board meeting to set Committee Chairs and to talk about the Committee's recommendation for a donation of funds to the Iris Network.

Roll call of Board Members in Attendance:
Officers: Sherry Belka, President, Lynn Merrill, Vice President, Cheryl Peabody, Treasurer, Carolyn Bebee, Secretary
Directors: Mary Ellen Frost, Nick Giudice, Joel McQuade
Unable to Attend: Leona McKenna and Amber Mooney

Topics:
Website: Discussion for a need to upgrade the security and password. There is an issue with the PayPal need for https. Steve Kelly is addressing a work-around.

New Business:
Accounting Firm and Services:
There are concerns with the current Accounting Firm and their historical lack of timely response and lack of

response now from Accountant, Derek Jervais. It finally was determined that $6,000 needs to be distributed by ACB of Maine by the end of 2020. Attempts were made to reach the accountant and determine how much needed to be distributed in 2021. The estimate was $9,000. However, to date there has been no response on the exact amount. Nick suggested strongly that we dispense with their service. Lynn made a motion to give Sherry the latitude to obtain a new Accounting Firm. Nick seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously. Cheryl volunteered to explore accounting possibilities in the Waterville area. Taxes appear to be very straight forward and do not require a highly specialized CPA. Nick mentioned, that he had contacts in the Portland area if those were needed in the future. Joel mentioned that Loyal Spaulding was an Accountant and lived in the area. Cheryl will explore the accountant possibilities in Waterville and report back to the board in December.

Donation to the Iris Network: $6000
Pat Monahan had two conference calls with David Barnwell, Director of the Iris Network. Pat was unable to attend this Board Meeting. The purpose of the call was to identify needs of individuals who are blind and visually impaired and who are receiving services with the Iris Network. Due to the pandemic, services have been limited and there is not a financial need there. The Low

Vision Clinic is closed. Currently there are five residents in the Assisted-Living Apartments who are behind in their rent payments and at risk of eviction. There have been challenges related to the pandemic and the availability of work and some may be on unemployment. Lynn asked and clarified that the payment would go directly to the Iris Network so as not to possibly affect unemployment or other income sources. Cheryl confirmed that the payment would be issued to the Iris Network rather than to individuals. Nick thought perhaps the donation would be more programmatic and toward learning skills. Also, possibly there is a need for new computers or there are ways that would have a broader base impact for services due to the pandemic. Carolyn introduced the possibility that part of the money could be dedicated to adaptive devices for clients who were in the Independent Living Program. Cheryl asked if this would include things like Low Vision aids, magnifiers etc. Areas that could be covered are adaptive devices and aids in Low Vision, Daily Living skills, Orientation Mobility and Technology. Mary Ellen introduced the consideration that Nancy Matulis had identified that there may be a need for an updated Braille Embosser to print braille for meetings, training etc. The cost for an Embosser may be approximately $6000. Nick reviewed that the Tiger Embosser could do braille and print. Sherry introduced the possibility for funds to support recreation activities. She said there would also be approximately $9000 next year that also could be dedicated to recreation. Cheryl added how Molly has drawn in members to ACB. Nick asked the question if it went to the Iris does the donation have to have a line item list on how the donation must be spent? Sherry replied the Board could take another week or two and review at the December Board Meeting. Cheryl asked if we had questions that need more clarification.

Sherry emphasized that our Mission is education and recreation.

Board Discussion continued clarifying that with the discussion with David Barnwell, it was indicated that approximately $4000 to $5000 would cover the back rent for five tenants. Lynn made a motion that $6000 be dispensed to the Iris Network with the stipulation that the five tenants would have back rent paid and now be current. The remainder of the donation would be allocated for tangible adaptive devices for clients in the Independent Living Program. Cheryl seconded the motion. Discussion followed: Nick questioned whether All residents could draw down on the apartments. Suggestion was made that $4000 be dedicated to the overdue apartment rents and $2000 dedicated to Independent Living adaptive devices. It was emphasized that $500 needs to be allocated to the DRM Honorarium. Cheryl identified perhaps some cautions with the rental support going forward. Nick identified that he needed to abstain with a possible conflict of interest with his being on the Iris Network Board. Discussion continued with the suggestion that the rent support would be a one time only subsidy. The motion was amended to allocate $4000 for the rent balance for 5 apartment residents who were blind or visually impaired and $2000 would be allocated to the Independent Living Program for adaptive devices. This is a one time contribution for rent for the year 2020 and is occurring due to the unique circumstances of our times with the pandemic.

The question was raised whether we had a quorum present. It was confirmed that a quorum is present with five members including Sherry, Joel, Lynn, Cheryl and Mary Ellen. Nick recused himself and Carolyn is not eligible to vote. Sherry called the question. Lynn reviewed that Nick would still be part of the quorum as he only is recusing himself form this Vote. The vote was unanimous.

Committees:
Finance: Lynn, Chair Member: Cheryl
Constitution & By-Laws: Nick, Chair
Legislative: Cheryl
Convention: Mary Ellen, Chair
Membership: Carolyn, Chair Members: All Board
Fundraising: Leona and Mary Ellen, Co-chairs, Members: All Board

Membership Committee:
Discussion regarding how to expand the membership of ACB of Maine. Ideas proposed were a list of campers who attended camp Molly and reach out to them to consider being part of ACB. Sherry mentioned considering all ACB members to brainstorm on how to bring in new members. Also, defining the Mission of what we do and what we want to do seems essential. Exploration continued related to NFB and ACB and the cordial relationship that exists between the two organizations in Maine. Nick mentioned the possibility of how ACB and NFB could work together. Carolyn mentioned the possibility of a joint conference in the fall. Sherry also added that membership and fund raising could be all board members working together on these two committees.

Update: Sherry reviewed the Facebook page and that she posted information about the voting and convention.There was discussion about how Facebook wants personal information and that’s not appropriate for Sherry to put up her personal info on that site. Also, Cheryl and Sherry reviewed the PayPal situation.

Lynn made a motion to adjourn with a second by Mary Ellen.

Assignments to be Completed and by Whom:

1) Cheryl will explore Accountants in the Waterville are to replace the current service being used.

2) A check will be sent to the Iris Network from ACB of Maine. $4000 is to be allocated for the overdue rent for 5 individuals who are in jeopardy of eviction and who are blind or visually impaired. This is a one time contribution for the rent for the year 2020. $2000 will be allocated for Aids and Adaptive Devices for Independent Living Clients. Areas to include: Low Vision, Daily Living Skills, Orientation and Mobility and Technology.

3) $500 to be allocated toward the DRM Honorarium

Next Meeting is December 3, 2020 via conference call at 7:00PM Conference #: 1 (712) 770-5322 PIN: 276351