

Minutes Oct 18, 2022		Location: Zoom online
The Newark Partnership Board of Directors		Start Time: 6:30 p.m.
		End Time: 7:52
Attending: Roy Lopata, Ty Jones, Paul Keeley, Max Walton, Matt Robinson, Chris Locke, Mayor Stu Markham, Caitlin Olsen, Freeman Williams, Jamie Zingaro Presiding Officer: Polly Sierer Staff: Leann Moore, Executive Director Absent /Excused: Bob McBride, Tom Coleman, Dan Rich, Olivia Brinton, Mary Ladley Visitors/Guests: None tonight		
Item Topic	Summary of Discussion	Outcome/Action
Approval of Minutes of Sep 20, 2022, Meeting	Motion: Keely Second: Williams Unanimous approval	Minutes Approved without changes
Approval of Treasurer’s Report through September 20, 2022	Motion: Lopata Second: Markham Notes: Some atypical expenses because of payment to summer interns. Student government involvement is increasing along with printing and promotional costs. \$13,000 is being expensed for veteran banners. A \$75,000 payment from UD has been sent to the wrong account, but this is being worked out.	Report approved as presented Unanimous approval
Executive Committee (ExComm) Report on Economic Development Recommendations. Max Walton and Stu Markham were excused from this discussion and did not participate in this part of the meeting. This document was discussed by the TNP ExComm meeting in 2 called meetings. The Executive Committee decided that it was not in the best interests of TNP to allow the recommendation document to be sent forward. As TNP is a new organization, there are some things we have not yet explored in our relationships with stakeholder organizations and the business community. It was recalled that while one of our main goals as TNP is to promote local business, we		

may not have sought the broadest participation in decisions affecting the community. Other board members mentioned that some important concerns are for the ultimate direction of TNP as an organization and what the staff and board members should be engaged in, especially when it concerns legislation and proposals to change existing laws and regulations. Economic Enhancement Committee spoke earlier that week (before Sep meeting) about advocating for business interests, and some thought we should be doing this. We noted that although TNP was a new organization, we have advocated for other public positions in the past.

Some members noted that the ExComm, under existing by-laws, does not seem to have the power to overrule the Economic Enhancement Committee or keep the Board from taking action. Did we have a complete review of the bylaws by an outside external legal counselor? However, this did not happen, as implied in the September TNP Board minutes. We realized that we need to discuss with the full TNP Board how we will proceed for future advocacy in relationships with our stakeholder/member organizations.

Board members advocated for complete separation from stakeholder concerns and complete transparency on the part of the ExComm and various TNP Committees as a public nonprofit organization. We abdicate responsibility for advocacy that is good for the community unless we make recommendations on the record.

In the present matter, we have not yet decided on the correct path for the EEComm recommendation. We hope our TNP Counsel will review existing bylaws and suggest the appropriate path for such potential advocacy reports or documents. This will need to be part of future conversations by the TNP Board to determine what we can do in the future.

Suggestion: Use our relationship with DANA(NE Association of NonProfit Agencies) for training and technical assistance in advocacy issues involving board actions.

Moved and seconded (Locke and Lopata) That the Econ Enhancement Committee recommendation is forwarded to the City of Newark Planning Department. Discussion followed.

It was recalled that ExComm was in favor of NOT forwarding this recommendation by a vote of 5 to 1.

After further discussion, it was agreed to withdraw the motion and second and end the discussion tonight.

A path forward will be developed with the board's approval after a review by outside counsel.

Chris Locke moved, and Roy Lopata seconded that a review of by-laws is conducted specifically on the responsibility of the board committees and the Executive Committee by outside counsel.

Bylaws and EconCommittee recommendations are to be sent to all of the Board members (including the names of the Economic Enhancement Committee members).

Vote by roll-call No-3, Yes- 6, 2 abstain: motion was passed.

Polly will engage outside counsel to work on this issue; she will likely be unable to complete this before the Nov 16 TNP Board meeting. Unanimous agreement to this plan.

Executive Director Updates

Administrative:

Program Director Job reposted on two specific nonprofit hiring websites. Three interviews next week to explore skills. Leann thinks this position might be better filled by hiring 2 PT people. Several Board members suggested that it might be a good idea to circulate the position to TNP Board for their review and possible connections to qualified local-knowledgable applicants.

The Veteran Banners will be hung on Main Street next month (November).

ExDirector Presentation to City Council has been ongoing about once per month

Council is specifically interested in housing, especially rental housing, and homelessness issues. We have done comparative research and posted this on the TNP website but have yet to send formal reports to any city agency or staff members. We should be clear that we should only have data interpretation/conclusions that might be interpreted as advocacy presented to the public if the Board has seen the information and approved the form and presentation of the data.

Suggestion: Before the monthly Council report ExDirector should present to the TNP Board, who can then inquire and suggest any changes and approve what is posted.

Executive Director Priorities for Final Quarter 2022

Membership/Sponsors: In discussion with JPMorgan and Kendal for additional support.

They are working on concerns expressed at the Small Business Forum to identify the needs noted.

Launching Mini-Grant Program: meeting with City to build this into City of Newark financial arrangements.

NonProfit Guide is complete and will be launched online next week.

Membership: Focus on nonprofit community

Fundraising/Grants:

Longwood Foundation reviewing all applications for final questions and decision by Oct 3.

It was noted that Leann did a great job answering questions from Longwood staff in their presentation session. The process of obtaining this grant is a significant learning experience for TNP.

Making Newark a Holiday Destination: Window decorations contest for the Holidays. Social Media contest with prizes from two media sources.

Eighteen businesses have committed to participate. To start Small Business Sat with the winner announced two weeks before Christmas Holiday.

NonProfit Enhancement	<p>Meetings virtually four months of the year.</p> <p>Meeting with Delaware Difference Makers (in person) 3 meetings.</p> <p>This meeting with DANA and SPUR will expand our circle of members.</p> <p>The remainder of the meetings will be networking events and professional development series.</p>
Civic Engagement	<p>Changing meeting structure: we are going to other organizations' group meetings to introduce TNP. Meeting once a quarter to plan Knowing Newark Events. In-person meetings to review the purpose of the Civic Engagement meeting.</p>
Economic Enhancement	<p>No specific report since we discussed Economic Enhancement Committee issues tonight.</p>
Community Announcements* <small>*These events are not sponsored by The Newark Partnership but may be of interest to members</small>	<p>None tonight.</p>
Public Comments: None tonight.	

Next Board Meeting: Nov 15, 2022, 6:30 PM, at W.L. Gore Discovery Hub Conference Room Barksdale Rd. Newark (RSVP to Leann and come 1 hr early for a tour)

Respectfully Submitted: Robert McBride, Secretary, based on the review of the recorded Zoom meeting.