

MINUTES (Abbreviated) Acorn Foundation Committee Meeting
www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us
Thursday, November 19, 2009
Mahany/Meininger Community Center – 3500 Marais, Royal Oak

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Condino, Jeanne Sarnacki, Barry Schulman, Robin Winter, Patricia Capello, Thomas McGannon, William Willard, Trevor Weston

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Mayor Jim Ellison, Donald Johnson, Commissioner Gary Lelito, Christopher Ahn, Gary Callender, Jason Edberg

STAFF: Paige Gembariski

Approval of Minutes Meeting called to order at 7:04pm. July 15, 2009 minutes approved as read.

City Commission Comments na

Public Comment Pat announced that the Foundation might want to change the name of Acorn to something else because of the National Acorn Foundation. During her campaign she received negative responses from residents because the thinking that we were associated with the National Acorn Foundation. Bill expressed a concern of the low representation the Foundation is receiving for City Commission and if Commission cares that we exist. There was talk about a possibility of decreasing the number of members appointed to committee.

Old Business

Grant Proposal – On hold!

Summary of Activity Elizabeth feels that the Foundation is dragging and there is really no forced direction. It's nice to have the Foundation because it allows the community to keep the good things. The focus is not consistent. Bill expressed that when Sara left the committee she was the individual with the expertise. She had the vision and experience. Jeanne has resigned has the seat from Nature Society for Acorn. She would be available as a non-voting member to provide some value. She is trying to clear her agenda. Pat expressed the possibility of down size by (2) board member. Originally there were 9 members to 11 and now 13.

A motion was made to: 1) A change in direction of the Acorn Foundation to focus on helping each of the seven member groups over the next seven years with one significant project (helping with a special event, sponsorship appeals, logistics planning, publicity/promotion, other); 2) We will focus on future development, not on the past of the organization; 3) The change will be used to become more relevant to City of Royal Oak – helping member organizations to improve an element of the community. All in favor and Liz sustained.

Pat is researching ordinance of committee. Set agenda for next meeting. Barry expressed some ideas of name changes and to table grant process. Committee decided to make sure that first project has clarity for success.

New Business Motioned by Trevor that new Vice-Chair be Tom McGannon. Pat seconded. All in favor.

Communications

Adjournment 8:35 pm.

NEXT MEETING Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Gembarski

Coordinator of Senior Citizen Activities

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