

MINUTES

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON ENDOWMENTS AND PHILANTHROPY

Montana School Boards Association Conference Room
Thursday, June 19, 2005

Present:

Sue Talbot, chair	Tim McCauley
Sid Armstrong	Dennis Peterson
Dale Burgeson	Alberta Rivera
Linda Coulston	John Scibek
Donna Davis	Jim Soft
John Delano	Peter Sullivan
Michele Herrington	Josh Turner
Spence Hegstad	Jay Vogelsang
Amy Kelley	Judy Wing
Brian Magee	

INTRODUCTIONS

Sue introduced Michele Herrington, Program Director for the Montana Community Foundation, who will be replacing Ralph Yaeger as the MCF representative to the Task Force, at least temporarily.

APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES

Sue asked if any changes need to be made to the May minutes. Hearing no requests, the group unanimously approved the minutes by voice vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sue distributed the Task Force Statement of Activities for May 1, 2005 through May 31, 2005. It showed \$100.00 in contributions and \$30.00 in expenses for an ending fund balance of \$7,938.12.

Sue reviewed the list of past contributors to assign members to contact those who'd not recently contributed. The following assignments were made:

- Billings Boys & Girls Club (no volunteers)
- DA Davidson Trust (Linda Reed)
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (Jim Soft noted it was not a good time to ask them, given their recent contribution to national philanthropy efforts)
- St. Patrick's, Missoula (Judy Wing – in the Fall)
- Virginia Thompson (Sue)
- Bozeman Deaconess Foundation for Giving (Dennis)
- Cheri Burns (Ralph)
- Bill Cain (Ralph)
- Cathy Campbell (Ralph)
- Carroll College (Jay)
- Cotter Foundation (Sid)
- Peninsula Community Foundation (Sid will talk with Bill Kearns)
- First Interstate Bancsystem, Billings (Sharen? Sid will talk with Kelly Bruggeman)

- Intermountain Children's Home (Barbara)
- Ted Smith (Sue)
- St. Peter's Hospital Foundation (Ralph)
- St. Vincent's Hospital, Billings (Dennis; Jim Soft noted that they have also recently contributed to the national effort)

There was some discussion about what specifically the Task Force is "selling." Sue stressed the notion that this is not a donation but a marketing tool for those who have benefited from tax credit-inspired gifts. **Sue and John Scibek will write up a brief "marketing pitch" and distribute it to the group.**

MEETING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

John Scibek will confirm with Jim McKeon about the meeting time and date; he left a phone message about meeting July 21st (the next Task Force meeting). It was suggested at the May meeting that a letter be sent to them in advance of the meeting, laying out the agenda for the discussion. There was discussion about the original brainstormed list of potential discussion items (from the April meeting). **John Scibek volunteered to refine the list and get feedback from the group before drafting and sending the final letter.**

MNA 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Brian gave a brief overview of the conference, which will be held October 3-5 in Missoula. He had previously sent Sue a sponsorship packet, and made clear that he wanted the Task Force to be involved in whatever capacity it wished for visibility sake. He expects 200 nonprofits to attend. There was discussion about how the Task Force might participate; Sue volunteered to "man" a booth. Brian explained the fee structure: the entry-level exhibitor table is \$250, which includes acknowledgement in all materials sent out by MNA. At higher levels there are more benefits, including special acknowledgements at break times.

Jim Soft moved that the Task Force give \$500 in order to sponsor a break, as well as have a table. Sid seconded the motion. All approved by voice vote.

MEETING WITH THE GOVERNOR

Sid has been working on trying to set a date to meet with the Governor and Lt. Governor, but their schedules have been extremely full. The only date the scheduler had was June 30, but Sue will be out of the country then. **Sid will look into July dates. Sue will send Sid all the dates that she is free in July and August.** It was noted that putting off the meeting date will make it harder to plan for a Governor's Conversation in the fall. All agreed that November would not be too late for a Conversation.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Sue reported that Galen had posted county information on the site. All agreed that the website is looking good. **Sue asked all TF members to look at the website to make sure their personal information (and that of anyone else) is correct (<http://www.endowmentana.org/members.html>).** Amy will look through the list and send Galen the corrections she knows.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

Sue read an e-mail message from Steve Browning, recommending that the Task Force send a letter to Sen. Baucus in support of the IRA rollover legislation. All agreed that it was an important effort.

John Scibek gave an update on the latest bill: HR 1607, the "Public Good IRA Rollover Act," introduced April 13. It allows direct rollovers at 70 ½, and rollovers into planned gifts at 59 ½. It would not be a taxable distribution, nor would it be deductible, but any income generated by a planned gift would be taxable as income. John has the text if anyone is interested in reading it. The bill had nine co-sponsors as of June 2nd.

Jim Soft added that HR 1607 differs from the House bill last year with the addition of the 59 ½ rollover to planned gifts. He said that Sen. Dorgan's bill from 2001 (S 1375 in 2001) is about to be introduced in the Senate. It is very similar to the House bill, so much so that a conference committee might not be needed. Jim thought that if both Sens. Baucus and Grassley were on board, the bill would be a "fait accompli." He agreed that it would be helpful, at the right time, for the Task Force to ask Sen. Baucus to endorse or co-sponsor Dorgan's bill, letting him know that it would be good for Montana charities. He thought it could happen this fall, but probably not before then.

Jim agreed to draft a letter to Sen. Baucus, distribute it for feedback from other TF members, and have it ready to go. He also thought it would be good to have MNA and the Big Sky Institute sign on, as well as other organizations – the point being that this is not coming from any particular organization but from the philanthropic community in general. Someone suggested adding testimonials from people who would roll over their IRA if the bill became law.

Jim suggested that he and John Scibek put together a 15-minute Power Point presentation on charitable giving now and how it would be if this legislation passes. It could be used in the Lunch & Learn sessions should the bill pass.

John Scibek noted that Roy Blunt (MO) is also working on another version of the CARE Act, pulling out the non-itemizer deduction, which would be resubmitted.

PANEL ON NONPROFIT SECTOR REPORT

Brian reported that there would be a conference call in the coming week to work out the final details of the final report. (NOTE: The final report was released on June 22. It can be downloaded at <http://www.nonprofitpanel.org/final>.)

TASK FORCE 10-YEAR REPORT

Ralph had previously submitted to the group a draft of the report to the Governor. **Sue will ask Ralph about editing the report. Amy said she would design the final report.**

NEW TASK FORCE BROCHURE

Sid and Josh reported that they'd completed a draft of the brochure, which they will pass on to Amy to design. **Amy will bring a draft to the next Task Force meeting.**

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on **July 21**, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The meeting location will be announced before the July meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.