Center for Local Government Board of Directors Meeting

July 7, 2021

1:30pm-3pm

CLG Offices

(4015 Executive Park Dr. Suite 226, Cincinnati, OH 45241)

In attendance: Kristen Bitonte, Mike Rahall, Jack Cameron (virtually), Vicky Earhart, Jim Lukas (Board); T.J. White, Cody Smith (Staff)

Absent: None

* The meeting was called to order at 1:31pm
* May 5, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
  + Motion to approve by K. Bitonte, seconded by V. Earhart. Motion passed 4-0 with one abstention
* W.D. Heisel Memorial Scholarship Discussion
  + The Board selected Corey Foister as the 2021 W.D. Heisel Memorial Scholarship winner. Second place was Sarah McPherson. Ania Cosby and Milo Simpson also received votes.
* CLG Annual Meeting
  + T. White stated that staff had begun working on Annual Meeting preparations. T. White and Director of Operations Lori Stuckey had reached out to Winton Woods, Kings Island, the Mason Tennis Center, the Savannah Center, and Montgomery Inn. Montgomery Inn is available on the proposed September 16th date. The other locations were either cost prohibitive or unavailable.
  + T. White asked the Board for suggestions on additional locations. K. Bitonte suggested Top Golf in West Chester. Butler County’s Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center was also suggested. V Earhart stated that regional draw like the FC Cincinnati stadium may work. Looking at Butler County Metroparks or a State Park like Hueston Woods was also suggested. T. White stated he would talk to L. Stuckey and they would work to see if any of these locations is plausible.
  + J. Lukas asked if CLG was locked in to an 11am – 1pm timeframe for the event. T. White stated that CLG is not necessarily locked into that timeframe, and that for a location like Top Golf or the FC Cincinnati Stadium, a 3pm event with an optional non CLG sponsored happy hour may be better.
  + J. Lukas asked if CLG subsidizes the cost of any of the Annual Meeting. T. White stated that $700 is budgeted annually to the Annual Meeting, and the remaining money to pay for it is generated through charging for attendance. J. Lukas stated that he would be open to subsidizing additional cost- especially since CLG has not held a live Annual Meeting in 2 years. The Board concurred with this recommendation. T. White added that last year would have been the 30th anniversary of CLG.
  + T. White stated that CLG has identified the following potential speakers: Kristen Schlotman of Film Cincinnati, Andy Brownfield of the Cincinnati Business Courier, Tom Gelehrter, FC Cincinnati radio broadcaster, and as a stretch goal, the new UC Basketball coach. J. Cameron stated that Greg Vehr (government affairs) was no longer at UC. T. White stated that he would reach out for a new contact.
* Board Terms
  + T. White stated that per the standard Board member rotation, Vicky Earhart’s term on the Board expires at the Annual Meeting. T. White asked V. Earhart if she wished to be re-elected to the Board. V. Earhart stated that she would consider renewing her Board membership
    - *Note: Per 7/9/21 e-mail, V. Earhart has decided to serve another term on the CLG Board.*
  + T. White then discussed officer rotations. Per the standard rotation, Mike Rahall would become Board President, Jack Cameron would become Vice President, and Vicky Earhart would become Secretary / Treasurer. This is at the Board’s prerogative. They can change the order or retain the current officers. The Board decided to rotate as per normal.
  + T. White stated that there would be official resolutions confirming these decisions at the September Board meeting prior to the Annual meeting.
* Solar program proposal
  + Silverton Village Manager Tom Carroll proposed a solar power program that CLG could facilitate. He had already spoken to Wyoming and Indian Hill, who expressed some interest previously. The concept would be that governments could either pursue a Power Purchase Agreement- whereby a private company would own the solar infrastructure at a government facility and sell the electricity back to the government; or a joint purchase of solar infrastructure, similar in model to the Solid Waste Consortium. T. White stated that what he would like to do is have an educational session about these options to assess interest. From that he could determine if a program was viable.
  + K. Bitonte stated that Liberty Township looked at a Power Purchase Agreement, but the ROI was 25 years for equipment with a lifetime of 30 years. T. White stated that could be an issue, and that there are varying ROI estimates. He also stated that for a Power Purchase Agreement model to work, there would need to be roughly $1 million in solar capacity. T. Carroll has already worked with a company in this regard, however T. White would want the governments to select the company they work with.
  + J. Lukas asked why Silverton came to CLG instead of pursuing this on its own with the other governments. T. White stated that one of the reasons was that Mr. Carroll often suggests potential shared programs to CLG in the context of providing us an opportunity to pursue them, as it aligns with our mission. When ideas are presented by Managers, CLG staff studies them to determine if they are viable and if CLG has the bandwidth to pursue them (e.g. the salt conveyor belt project in 2018).
  + J. Cameron stated while he was fine with CLG staff looking into the solar program, it would be helpful if there was a set of protocols to determine when CLG does or does not pursue a program. What separates our programs from things that governments should do on their own?
  + T. White stated that he can draft a document outlining how CLG staff determines what programs to pursue and present it at the September Board meeting.
* JUFS Update
  + The JUFS Consortium has had product demonstrations on two machines. They want to see the Apex machine live and in person. This presents an issue however since the two agencies that operate Apex machines locally both are unavailable. T. White is continuing to try to push the process along to finally resolve it and have the agencies make a selection.
  + J. Lukas asked if any of the simulators were multi-screen. T. White stated that the TI simulator used augmented reality goggles and a single screen. The Apex simulator only utilizes goggles.
  + T. White stated that this could be an opportunity to utilize the Program Development Fund to pay for any costs above and beyond what is in the JUFS account. M. Rahall asked if the Program Development Fund should specifically apply to programs all governments can use (since governments who utilize the Sheriff’s Department for police services aren’t able to join the JUFS group). T. White stated that would be a Board decision.
* CLG Membership Renewals
  + T. White stated that there are 4 outstanding governments. Miamisburg and Fairfield are processing their checks. Hamilton has not been reachable but T. White will continue to try. T. White has not set up his West Chester Township outreach visit yet, but will discuss their dues payment at that time.
  + The City of Clayton will be joining CLG in January.
  + J. Lukas suggested reaching out to the City of Riverside. There is a new Manager.
* The Board meeting adjourned at 2:34pm.