



Alliance for Animals and the Environment

May 2015 Board meeting minutes

At the board meeting were Gina Stuessy, Judi Duncan, Sue Miller, Melissa Smith, Bob Schwalb, Jim Arts, and Megan Ryan. Hannah West, the ED, was also present at the meeting. The meeting was held on May 26, 2015.

Bob and Melissa signed the Board Member agreement and Gina provided this to Megan.

Judi moved to approve April minutes and Bob seconded.

Gina will continue to put minutes on the website.

Gina handed out the "Donation Bill of Rights" that Hannah got at a conference.

Gina said she will start putting the financial statements up on the website.

Sue met with Leslie and Wayne and Hannah to discuss the finances and the accounting.

We will have an election at the end of December at which we can determine who our Vice President is. But we are looking for a Vice President until that time. Melissa moved to nominate Bob as VP and Judi seconded that. We voted unanimously to have Bob as Vice President.

Hannah gave the Director's Report:

Hannah asked that she be given some AFAE hours to use for Vegan Fest. The Board agreed to this. Hannah asked to be given 1 hour per week to be dedicated to activism sustainability. Sue and Judi asked what types of things Hannah will be doing with that time. Hannah gave a list of activities such as being mindful, meditating, sitting in nature, etc. Hannah said that she thinks she will be a more effective worker if she is a more balanced person. Some board members had concerns about this and Hannah decided that since this is something that is contentious we will not move forward with it now. Melissa did bring up that having a blog about her 1 hour activism sustainability project might be something that animal activists would value reading. Judi and Sue said that this is something that people should find in their own time to do and goes along with creating a healthy work life balance.

Hannah suggested that the three priorities for June be Vegan Fest, the AFAE table for Vegan Fest, and developing a case statement. Gina asked who wants to be on the committee to create a case statement. A case statement is an internal document that we would use for fundraising (why we exist, how we work, etc.). The case statement is needed for long term strategic planning. On the case statement committee will be Hannah, Gina, Melissa, and Judi. They will hold a meeting after Vegan Fest.



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Gina provided a copy of proposed Board policies prior to the meeting and we discussed some of these. Sue moved to approve and Megan seconded. Travel will be reimbursed per the proposed policy. We unanimously agreed on that.

Sue moved to approve the recruitment policy. We unanimously agreed on that rule.

Bob moved to approve the Whistle blower and conflict of interest policies and Melissa seconded. All approved.

We also noted that Hannah can approve up to \$100 per item per month (for AFAE-related expenses or purchases), up to \$500 per month, without board approval.

We are not declaring our project proposal process as official at this time.

We discussed doing something special for [a key member]. Gina did reach out to a few people regarding this. Hannah will ask [this person] if we can take [them] to dinner, as a board. Sue suggested we could invite some retired board members.

Gina gave an update on Vegan Fest. We have 50 exhibitors this year. We are almost filled with exhibitors. We have 13 sponsors, not including AFAE and VegFund. We have speakers lined up as well. We will also be putting posters up for Vegan Fest starting now.

Bob discussed the restaurant outreach project. We are only using 1/2 of what we budgeted for this project. Bob asked if the FAC committee can get other people to help with this.

We will do Fruit Fest in June on Willy Street. This is on June 13. Gina and Charlie will go to the Friends Meeting House (the Quaker House) this Sunday.

Hannah is heading the anti-viv group during the interim. We partnered with ALDF to send the mobile billboard around about Madison regarding Kalin's maternal deprivation experiments. Hannah spoke with Karen Joy Fowler, an author, and explained AFAE and our anti-viv group. There may be a possibility to partner with her in the future.

Gina brought up that Fighting Bob Fest is in September. Sue will sign us up for that event. We discussed what topics or committees we will have there. We agreed that we could have different committees with a presence there. Melissa suggested that since progressives consider themselves environmentalists it might be valuable to talk about how animal agriculture affects the environment.

Hannah brought up doing a project with SHARK regarding the rodeos in Wisconsin. She suggests we video-record the rodeo. The Wausau ambassadors wanted to do this. They also suggested calling sponsors of the rodeo to bring them awareness of the cruelty in the rodeo. The rodeo is in Merrill, WI.



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Hannah also said she contacted the student group that does the fashion show at UW and we could partner with Underdog Pet Rescue and also spotlight adoptable dogs at the fashion show.

Melissa had a few questions about the proposal projects. She said that we could sign up to sell beer at The Central Park Sessions. We would be able to hang an AFAE banner for this. AFAE would get 20% of the sales and tips. Friends of the WI Wolf made a lot of money doing this last year. Melissa has talked to Todd Jensen about this. The organization gets a portion of the beer sales and all the tips. Bob thought that we should take part in this and also get t-shirts for the organization servers to wear at this event. Judi said we should get t-shirts for wearing at our events. Melissa will follow up with Todd on this.

Sue will talk to her brother in Chicago about getting t-shirts. He makes t-shirts. Melissa suggested getting a t-shirt that has a logo on the front and possibly something on the back. We could also sell these t-shirts. Hannah suggested we ask our graphic designers about this.

Bob brought up having a summer intern and we briefly discussed this possibility.

Meeting was adjourned.