

Board Meeting Minutes

FEBRUARY 28, 2008

Present: Ann Sinclair, Patricia Richards, Claudia Jahn, Barbara Nehiley, Bill Buckland, Carol Tooton, Amy Moonshadow, Kasia Tota

Regrets: Wayne Desmond, Rebecca Koeller, Ann Bromley

1. Approve agenda – APPROVED: Add Follow up on Housing Ministers Meeting letter and Federal Budget

2. Approve minutes of January 22, 2008

Motion: Approve minutes of Jan. 22, 2008

Moved by: Claudia Seconded by: Ann APPROVED

3. Reports

- a. Treasurer – Barb provided an update on the balance of accounts and provided a recommendation on some changes.

Motion:

1. Recommend that term deposit in account #41 when mature be split into one \$5,000 5-year deposit and one \$5,000 one-year deposit and that the balance of \$1,293.90 be placed in operating account #18.
2. Recommend that the term deposit in account #43 when mature e rolled into a \$5,000 one year deposit and that the balance be placed in operating account #18 (approximately \$1,324.32).

Moved by: Barb Seconded by Patricia. APPROVED

By way of an update on the CAH Partnership Account, the closing balance in that account is currently \$15,397. Some of the money will be donated to the North End Community Clinic, a small amount will be retained by CAH for community needs and the rest will be donated to AHANS. The account at that time will be closed.

b. Social Marketing

Kasia presented the report on recommended action to the rural roundtable report.

1. Immediate follow up with participants & DCS

a) distribution of the document to participants of focus groups and Debert

Report has not been distributed yet because we had trouble with obtaining contacts and files. We have them now and the documents have been pdf'd. Cover letter will be drafted.

b) posting of the document on the website (once participants received it) – document will be posted as soon as the e-mail to participants goes out.

c) Meeting with the Department of Community Services, the Minister or Deputy Minister and Dan Troke. The Department is currently working on the Poverty Reduction Strategy and the document might be useful for this purpose.

A meeting between Kasia, Wayne, Ann and Amy did not take place due to personal reasons. The Social Marketing Committee questioned whether we are ready or should wait until after the second symposium. Claudia suggested that it will take a while to organize the meeting and the letter could be fairly general.

2. Follow-up Network Meeting

Social Marketing met on Feb. 20 (report circulated)

Key directions included:

Objectives:

- Review/confirm/solidify/add to the recommendations in the report so that they could be brought to decision makers and serve as a clear guide for action
- Develop a momentum and develop a structure for organizing a province-wide housing advocacy network

Key questions to be answered at the event (and could be used to advertise the event)

Regarding the Rural Roundtable report:

1. Is there anything you would change or add to the recommendations from Debert?
2. What can be done to achieve these specific recommendations?

Regarding the Network:

1. What would you want the provincial housing network to be to you and/or your organization?

2. What role can AHANS play to facilitate a vibrant and effective provincial housing network?

Ideas for format/hosting of the event

- Should focus on community
- One-day event
- Should government people be invited or should this be an opportunity to get “our house in order”?
- Suggested dates: Saturday May 3 or May 10.
- Location: Dartmouth Waterfront College or Saint Peter’s Church were already explored and would be free.
- May get \$1,000 from Coastal Communities (not confirmed yet)

Discussion:

- Location was discussed. The Board could see the benefits of holding it in Metro but Truro would still be preferred because the focus should be on outside Metro. On the other hand we did not have anyone from Yarmouth. Cape Breton and Preston participants could actually be closer to Dartmouth. This should be referred back to the committee.
- We should come to the symposium with some ideas thought through...
 - How else can we connect people from across the province on a more regular basis?
 - What can AHANS do? What can we NOT commit to?
 - Do we need hire staff?
 - Network members should take on part of the responsibility of keeping it going
 - The process must be sustainable
 - Look at successful networks (e.g. New Brunswick)
 - Focus on community but extend invitation to government / agency types
 - Social marketing should try to develop some of the recommendations from the Roundtable report further to ensure that the symposium is effective in developing a good product
 - Suggested date – May 3 but referred back to committee.

ACTION: Social marketing to continue working on this.

b. By-laws and policy

Patricia and Barb circulated draft policies and procedures document. Everyone appreciated their work. Carol Tooton commented that this should be an annual item on the board’s agenda, as policies and procedures always evolve with the organization. Several comments were provided, namely on the Vision, Mission, Principles.

ACTION: All Directors to review and provide comments to Patricia electronically before next meeting.

4. New Business

- a. Appoint a Board member to Creighton-Gerrish Board
Ann followed up with Grant. Amy Moonshadow will represent the AHANS Board. Grant may seek other help from other board members.
- b. EAC Lunch and learn request to speak on affordable housing – Claudia thought that they were looking for HRM perspective. Kasia already referred them to Andy Fillmore and Fred Wendt. Patricia will follow up whether they want AHANS.
- c. CHRA Conference in Vancouver AHANS representation. Bill will already attend as CHRA Board member. It was decided that AHANS will not send its own rep but that Bill will bring materials and report back. Claudia suggested that the New Brunswick Housing Network meeting May 8-10 may be a useful event to attend in Fredericton. Claudia may attend and bring back learnings.
- d. FCM report on Housing prior to the Housing Ministers meeting in Vancouver in February – Ann drafted a letter but the time was too short to get it signed. She may explore a possibility to draft a letter regardless to draw attention to the FCM report.

5. Community updates

- Most projects have been awarded through the latest CAH RFP. Programs and Services were funded for the first time, including a collaborative Eviction Prevention.
- Seton received a \$350,000 RAP grant to upgrade 30 homes in Cape Breton
- Metro Turning Point and St. Leonard's are looking at amalgamation and expansion of services.
- The New Federal Budget – affordable housing not really mentioned, neither is homelessness except for the Mental Health Commission and its pilot projects (Halifax not included). It appears that the attitude is that housing is a provincial mandate and money will be transferred with no strings attached. A lot of confusion over the future of the homelessness program. AHANS and CAH should monitor.

6. Next Meeting Friday March 28 12 pm Lunch Meeting. Location TBC. Suggestion: Dofsky's??

7. Adjourn

Prepared by: Kasia Tota, Secretary