American Council of the Blind of Indiana (A.C.B.I.)

Board Meeting, Teleconference

January 24, 2015

Present were: Lynn Powers, Brenda Eads, John Huffman, Edie Huffman, Barbara Salisbury, Gerry Koors, Don Koors, Bill Sparks, Jeff Busch, Deanna Austin, Rich Vonderhaar, Don Lane, Rita Kersh, Sue L’Esperance, Mike Bowman

The meeting started approximately 10:05 am.

The minutes for the 11/03/14 regular board meeting and 01/06/15 special board meeting were approved with the following corrections on page 3 of the Nov. minutes: Hofstetter Endowment, $16,297.81, total $25,707.52, (before 2014 fund raising letter) $675. And to the Jan. meeting minutes mentioned three meals including the banquet, which should be four meals including the banquet. It was also clarified that ACBI will not be signing a contract with the hotel for anything, including food. The concensus was that detail is very helpful in remembering previous discussions. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be accepted. Motion passed.

Financial report: As of Dec. 31, 2014: Balance in Checking Account, $3,256.71; Balance in Savings Account $3,908.45; Total in all accounts, $ $46,663.88, including Hofstetter and Dobson. Hofstetter General Fund, $9,896.00 ; Hofstetter Endowment corrected amount, $17,062.67. Ardis Dobson account, $3,226.37. It was moved and seconded that the treasurer’s report be accepted. Motion passed.

One car was donated but there has been no revenue reported.

Don Koors mentioned that there is $11,121 in a money market fund which pays 1/10 of 1 %. Don recommended that we invest $5,000, which would leave $6,000 available in the scholarship fund and would let us generate more income. The bonds would be 2 ½ years or less (no longer time is recommended), and the return is posted every month. There will be additional donations to the fund in 2015. Don moved to invest another $5,000 in bonds out of the Hofstetter fund (some from the Endowment, some from the Scholarship fund) for not more than 2 ½ years. Edie seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion ensued about the midyear president’s meeting in Feb. and the legislative meeting. Lynn and Barbara will not be able to attend. Don Koors will be attending the legislative meeting and could attend the midyear president’s meeting. It is encouraged that people in various districts attend, as their representative is happier to talk to someone in that district. Medicare reimbursement for vision services and the Allison, Conwell and Anne Sullivan Macy legislation will be the two topics of legislative interest.

Budget was discussed. Don Koors presented a balanced budget, which will be even more so since only one person is going to Washington, D.C. The members of the committee were thanked. Don moved adoption of the budget, Gerry seconded, motion passed.

Rita suggested moving the Focus items deadlines to March 1, June 1,Sept. 1, Dec. 1, etc., because it easier to deal with later items. This is for her convenience and does not require a vote.

2015 convention report by Lynn was that the planning committee and site committee were both looking for members. Vicky Prahin will chair the planning committee, with Barbara, Rich and Bill as Indiana representatives on the committee. The site committee is thinking of Cincinnati (the current 2 members live in Cincinnati), and they would be responsible for making sure that anything needing to be Braille is Brailled and things are described well for orientation. Edie, John and Deanna volunteered for the site committee. They will need to visit the proposed site(s).

Lynn suggested that Indiana lead the auction, since ours has been well organized. There will also be jobs available during the convention, which will be discussed closer to the convention time. Since ACBO has a table in the vendor area and their fundraising activities, ACBI should consider doing so, also, to take advantage of fundraising opportunities. Sue suggested we need to be aware of Indiana’s laws regarding lotteries and raffles, even though we will be in Ohio. Don reminded us that we need two meetings, to deal with nominations at one meeting and elections at another meeting. Lynn has sent contact information of those of ACBI on the joint convention committees to Vicky Prahin.

Lynn said that since we will be planning a joint convention, we will have time to deal with some other matters needing attention. Don mentioned that he needs membership lists from the chapters.

Remaining board meeting dates:

April 25 in person, lunch? Lynn will put some recommendations together

July 25, face to face?

Oct. 24, teleconference

Items for in depth (deep dive in business lingo) consideration in April

1. Constitution and bylaws – John will get his committee together and recommendations prepared by April
2. Audit
3. Information about convention
4. Facebook/Website/ Twitter – Edie, Bill (Mike point person) to meet and report in April

Don Koors talked to EnVision and plans to write a brief item to Focus about how people can access sources; he also mentioned that Congress passed the “ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Act” in Dec. 2014, which would allow people on public assistance to establish an “Able Account”, an amount of money which would not be considered as a personal asset, if the person’s disability began before the age of 26. Rules and regulations are still in the works. Fifth Freedom listserv will give further information.

The Heartland Chapter participated in an NEA grant with WFIU on the art experience and people with disabilities, specifically visual impairments. The radio interview will be aired on this coming Monday. It will feature a touch tour of the IMA in Indianapolis. Barbara will send out an announcement, which Lynn will forward. There have also been some audible pedestrian signals installed on College Mall Road recently.

Rita mentioned that SCAVI had heard from INDOT about the audible pedestrian signals. The material has been purchased, and it should be installed soon. SCAVI is also in the process of getting a website developed. A link will be provided on the ACBI website, when it is ready. Rich will be the webmaster.

A 1987 graduate of the Indiana School for the Blind, Kathy Nimmer, who teaches 10th grade English at a public high school in Lafayette, has been nominated for national Teacher of the Year.

Jeff asked about the Elkhart chapter status. John said they are still a viable chapter at this time, so officially we have 5 chapters until we know differently.

Deanna went to the Crossroads Technology 101 event recently. They have several a year, on various topics. She met the librarian at Glendale Library who works with their accessible technology, who needs help with ZoomText and Jaws. Mike offered to help with Jaws. Easter Seals Crossroads is coming to Bloomington to interview Barbara, and she offered to contact them with the names of anyone else interested for a blog regarding visual impairment and work.

Don Lane moved, Jeff Busch seconding, the motion passed and the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Edythe Huffman, secretary