

Date: May 10, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Place: Virtual via Zoom by Tricia Lynn, Treasurer

Members absent: Alan Bunker, Teri Boland, Mary Heimert

Vice President Jackie Bryson called the meeting to order at 6:04.



Items for Presentation, Discussion or Action:

1. Review/approval of previous meeting's minutes – Kurt Grossman made a motion to approve, seconded by Tricia, and all approved.

2. Review/approval of March Treasurer's report – This was a catch-up from the March meeting, when no formal vote of approval was taken. Lisa Sprague made a motion to approve, Jackie seconded, and approval on the part of those present at the March meeting was unanimous. Kurt abstained on the basis that he attended that meeting, but was not yet a Board member.

3. Review/approval of April Treasurer's report – Kurt moved approval, Lisa seconded, and all voted in favor.

4. Reports of Committees:

A. Finance – Tricia reported an end-of-April balance of \$20,210.94, of which she categorizes \$11,312.94 as “true funds,” i.e., not obligated. In response to a question raised by Kurt before the meeting about the effect of the pandemic on DRC funding, Tricia explained that certain normal expenses, e.g., the holiday party, had not been incurred. Response to the Queen City Gift Card initiative was not as large as expected, so the DRC match was less than planned. Dues income was somewhat reduced in 2020, but is back on pace in 2021. A payment to ABC was recently made; other designated recipients are being contacted to assess their needs. (See further discussion under Outreach.)

B. Membership – Jackie has received training, and will oversee this function with the assistance of Heidi Shenk until a new chair is identified. Jackie affirmed that membership did not grow as fast as it probably would have without COVID-induced constraints.

C. Information & Technology – Victoria Pershick reported that a DRC Zoom account had been established, and she has been added as an administrator. Wild Apricot's membership management component is functioning well. In response to a question, Victoria said that she is monitoring DRC's Facebook page, but, in the absence of any promotion, there is not a lot of activity. She proposed that the I & T committee meet to develop a plan for more active use of Facebook, and bring that plan to the Board in June.

D. Social – Joan Meyer reported for the absent chair, Mary Heimert. She said that the Social committee (Mary, Joan, David Ostrander, Teri Boland, Lorry Hartley, and Julie DiMuzio) had met to discuss potential venues and divided the resulting list among themselves for follow-up visits. Social events should be possible in June and July in outdoor settings, perhaps in conjunction with other events such as concerts in Washington Park or Schmidlapp Lawn. In response to a question, Cate said she was not aware of any pushback toward 3CDC for starting up events on Fountain Square; rather, it is her impression that people are generally glad to have something to do.

E. Outreach – Jackie expanded on Tricia’s earlier comments, saying that members of the Finance committee were communicating with organizations we are accustomed to give funds to in order to assess their current needs. The ABC donation has already been made, and contributions to sponsor downtown planters on track. Other organizations are GeneroCity (the jobs van), the library, and ArtWorks. The Finance committee is developing a set of criteria to govern contributions should additional potential applicants come forward in the next budget cycle. One thought is to give DRC membership the opportunity to nominate organizations they deem worthy of DRC support. Esther raised concerns with this based on her experience with other grantors of funds: that the number of candidates could be overwhelming and that ill-will could be engendered among members whose candidates are not chosen. Jackie stressed that this whole idea is in its infancy and that further discussion will occur. The next step will be to bring the draft criteria to the Board.

F. Clean, Green & Safe - Alan had previously emailed his report on this topic; there were no questions.

G. Speaker Coordinator – Cate Douglas announced that Lou Sand from the Parks Department would be speaking at the May 11th membership meeting. A summer meeting will feature the manager of the new TownePlace Suites hotel at 7th and Race.

H. Young Professional Recruitment – Christian Rahe and Hank Davis are ready to go when given a green light to do so. It was agreed that an outdoor event could happen any time. The two will bring a proposal to the Board in June.

5. New Business – Andrew Naab inquired whether DRC had ever done an end-of-year report, presenting our priorities, initiatives, and accomplishments. He suggests that this could be a useful recruiting tool. Jackie said that this chimes with requests from some newer members of City Council that we fill them in on who we are and what we do. Jackie and Alan have been working on a PowerPoint presentation, which could be shared with the requesters and made available on DRC’s website and potentially its Facebook page.

Kurt mentioned an app he sees. Known as “Nextdoor,” it caters to downtown residents and seems to draw new registrations on an almost daily basis. New registrants are recognized

onscreen. He thought is that we might follow up with these people, welcoming them to downtown and suggesting that they join DRC. Jackie agreed to pursue the suggestion.

6. Announcements

Cate let the group know that 3CDC plans to install “cigarette butlers” at various locations in the city and asked Board members to let her know if they are aware of places where butt disposal is a problem

In response to a motion from Christian and a second from Kurt, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 14, 2021, 6:00 pm (Location TBA)