

ACC Board Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 9:00am Online

Attendees: Linda Bowers, Heidi Bruch, Maureen Britt, Mary Roddy, Stephanie Read, Gayle Kaplan, Maureen Moreton

Opened with a prayer from Linda Bowers

Maureen Britt moved to approve February's meeting minutes. They were unanimously approved.

Mary Roddy gave the treasurer's report. As a result of CTC being held at the end of February, we won't see all the funds from that hit the books until March financials are available. She is estimating that we will have around \$330,000 in grant funding dollars to give away this calendar year. He would be comfortable telling the grants committee they have \$300K or \$150k for spring & fall 2025 grant cycles. She brought up the subject of needing to consider either upping the max amount granted to organizations or reaching out to other organizations to apply for grants, as this year we have a lot more money than usual. It was then discussed that it would feel weird to just give certain organizations more for no reason. The board discussed talking with Bill Hallerman about all the agencies at CCS and which ones may be in crisis-mode and need immediate/more financial assistance/grant money. It was decided that Heidi would set up a Teams meeting either next week or the week after with Bill Hallerman at CCS (if possible) to get his input – once set up, the invite will be open to the board members who can attend.

Mary also discussed that we should talk more in depth about whether CTC being an in-person event every year is sustainable. It is a lot of work for the auction team and we want to make sure we use their time efficiently. Should we go to an online event in between years? There was more discussion on virtual events. This led into discussion Labor of Love and how much money it makes (max \$20k/per year) and the crossover of auction items with CTC. Ideas were thrown out: Instead of LOL, we use those items for a silent portion of the CTC auction, or we add an online auction to the CTC prior to the event (like some schools do), or knowing that LOL started as a Circle project, giving it back to a Circle to manage, etc. The LOL team (Heidi, Stephanie and Deirdre plan to meet in early May and report back to the board about LOL findings from this past year at the May board meeting.

Spring Grant Applications: there are 13 applications, totaling \$130k. There was discussion of St. Francis House applying – they are in crisis-mode as their diaper donor is no longer able to donate so they need diapers.

Celebrate the Children was a huge success – we are currently at \$222k gross in funds raised. Lots of details need work (event space/caterer), but overall it was an amazing event and our team knocked it out of the park!

Membership: Linda Van Hare was not present but Linda Bowers reported that she is working with the Circle at Sacred Heart parish in Bellevue that want to start back up. Heidi reported that a good friend reached out and wanted to see how to start a Circle in Magnolia. It was discussed that we are selling starting a new Circle being a "slow" start with help from ACC. Heidi to connect with her, connect her with Mary Welch and Linda Van Hare

It was reported by Maureen Moreton (per Erin Aitken) that the St. Therese Circle had a wildly successful Bingo night – they raised at least \$10k. Maureen also announced that FMJ will be holding their annual Cosmos for a Cause on March 15 at St. Louise. There is a raffle, silent auction and a speaker from St.

Francis House. It is a \$50 donation and a fun girls night out. More info available on the ACC website. Linda Bowers jumped in and said she attended the Trivia Night that Katie McKay held and that was very well attended. Not sure yet on donations collected but it was a great sized crowd. Gayle mentioned that Josephine McDermott had a small Galentine's fundraiser that raised \$1400.

Gayle brought up the art sign-up party (from the CTC auction) that is still open and has spots available. If we don't get 15 people in the next week, it will be cancelled. If it happens, Frances Hoffman Circle will be hosting apps/wine.

Next meeting will be held in person at CCS on Wednesday, April 9 at 10am. The meeting adjourned around 10:10am.