

Animal Charity Evaluators
Board of Directors Meeting
Type of Meeting: Standard Monthly Meeting
Date: 22 February 2015

In attendance:

Treasurer: Brian Tomasik
Secretary: Rob Wiblin
Board Member: Sam Bankman-Fried
Executive Director: Jon Bockman
Board aide: Jacy Anthis

Absent:

Chairperson: Simon Knutsson
Board Member: Peter Singer
Board Member: S. Greenberg

Quorum established: No

1. Call to order: JB called the meeting to order at 10:05 am PST

2. Approval of minutes: January minutes were approved via email.

3. Items considered:

1. Brief financial update (JB)
 - a. Updated financials
 - b. January Financials
 - i. Beginning balance as of 1/01/2015: \$101,442.63
 - ii. January expenses: \$(10,489.45)
 - iii. January income: \$7,905.01
 - iv. January net income: \$(2,584.44)
 - v. January budgeted income: \$5,000.00
 - vi. Ending balance as of 1/31/2015: \$98,858.19
 - vii. Equivalent to approx. 11 months expenses
 - c. February Financials (through 2/15/15)
 - i. Beginning balance as of 2/01/2015: \$98,858.19
 - ii. February expenses: \$(3,566.11)
 - iii. February income: \$1,050.00
 - iv. February net income: \$(2,516.11)
 - v. February budgeted income: \$5,000.00
 - vi. Ending balance as of 2/15/2015: \$96,342.08
 - vii. Equivalent to approx. 10 1/2 months expenses
 - d. LICA

- i. This will allow ACE to accept online donations without fees through Give Direct and avoids the audit cost for the non-local version. This is pre-approved; it should take effect in April.
- 2. Progress update (progress in relation to strategic plan)
 - a. An interview and case study coming out soon.
 - b. JB is keeping the money moved updated, including a \$30,000 donation to The Humane League that happened last year but went unreported.
 - i. Animal Equality will be providing some help to track money moved.
 - ii. ACE will amend their legal status to allow them to redistribute donations given to ACE that are earmarked for the top charities.
 - 1. This could take a large amount of time to process, especially for smaller donations. It could be offered only for larger donations, but such a policy could be off-putting for some donors. Will have a minimum donation amount.
 - 2. This can also be used to delay donations or to move money to charities that lack tax deductibility in the US.
 - c. A new \$25,000 donation will come in from Raising for Effective Giving soon that was requested be used for a matching campaign. It seems like REG donations would have been given to animal charities otherwise but likely not ACE's top charities.
 - i. JB is unsure whether ACE should have a matching campaign so soon after the previous one. Will consider having a smaller campaign mid-year.
- 3. Update from ED evaluation talk (JB)
 - a. JB appreciated and valued the feedback, and it has given him good takeaway points moving forward.
 - b. Moving forward, RW notes that JB can build talent by hiring staff with diverse skills like with the new researcher.
- 4. Board feedback (JB)
 - a. JB was asked to provide assessment of the board.
 - b. JB has appreciated the feedback from the board, especially how it doesn't feel like it's a power struggle. He appreciates the freedom to implement the feedback how he sees fit when the issue falls under the Executive Director's responsibilities.
 - c. The current structure with monthly board meetings and (bi)weekly meetings with the chair is very constructive.
 - d. JB also appreciates the financial support from the board, which makes up ~25% of ACE's funding.
 - e. JB feels that the board as a whole could contribute more with the Work component of 'Wealth, Wisdom, and Work.' This can be done with new board members.
 - i. RW notes that he can contribute some to research like data analysis.
 - f. The board could also provide more initiative on projects, outside of the chair

position. This could alleviate pressure on SK and result in more diverse considerations and perspectives.

- g. The board could also become more diverse in its composition (e.g. race, gender). The board might be able to address this in future recruitment.
5. Investment policy (JB)
- a. Investment advice document
 - b. Investment policy draft
 - c. Some thoughts on investing
 - i. SK feels we should invest if we can deposit at least \$30K, but recommends investing as much as we can. We should have an investment policy that tells us what to do with our assets.
 - ii. JB feels potential gains of \$1-3K for a \$30K investment (the most we could invest now and leave alone) aren't worth the time and the risk. Wary of investing larger amounts right now b/c of staff/board time managing investment, since we'd need to pull out money each month to pay salaries. Also has some PR concerns.
 - iii. SK, JB, SG, and SBF all agree that investing at larger amounts is worthwhile and that we should develop a policy. RW is mostly persuaded but still feels wary and prefers to hold several months' reserves in cash. BT favors investing all but 1-2 months because historical market losses are small, and we have a stop loss against big losses.
 - d. Fees for transferring money should be fairly negligible, but the startup costs might be more significant to setup the account.
 - e. There is a concern that stop losses can be triggered before the market bounces back. The stop losses might also be hard to trigger properly if the market is actually crashing, which could slightly increase the loss with a rapid sell order.
 - f. The next step for the investment policy can be to make the investment account and explore the fees/possible unknown factors.
 - i. For now, JB and the financial subcommittee will explore the best company to do this with. Amanda to set up account and report on fees and other conditions to financial subcommittee.
6. Board recruitment (JB)
- a. JA left for this portion of the call since he is a potential candidate. He will also advise the board of any potential candidates he knows.
 - b. Top candidates
 - i. Determined one candidate to invite to the board pending approval from members not in attendance.
 - ii. Eliminated more than half of candidates. JB to create updated spreadsheet, all board members to fill in more details about remaining candidates.
 - c. "We want to add at least two who could fill the chair role"

4. New business:

5. Closed session (optional: excludes ED or other invited guests): [N/A if the session was not closed]

6. Next scheduled meeting:

7. Meeting adjourned at 11:30am PST on February 22 by JB.

Submitted by:

Robert Wiblin, Board Secretary

Jon Bockman, Executive Director