Effective Animal Activism
Board of Directors Meeting
Type of Meeting: Standard Monthly Meeting
Date: March 30, 2014

In attendance:
Chairperson: Simon Knutsson
Treasurer: Brian Tomasik
Secretary: Rob Wiblin
Guest: S. Greenberg

Absent:
Executive Director: Jon Bockman

Quorum established: Yes

1. Call to order: SK called the meeting to order at 10:30 am PDT

2. Approval of minutes: Request for approval of February minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting held on March 2, 2014, and publishing them on the ACE website.

   In Favor: 3
   Opposed: 0
   Recused: 0

   The motion has passed.

3. Items considered:
   1. Brief financial update (2014 Financials (actual))
      a. At end of March, unrestricted assets are expected to be approx. $22K, which would cover approx. 3 months budgeted expenses, assuming we would get no more donations
      b. We are below our reserve target of 6-12 months budget
      c. Expected monthly expenses are approx. $7,300
      d. Donations received March 1 to March 21: $4,500.
      e. Fundraising:
         i. SK to discuss fundraising with JB at their next meeting
         ii. An idea is to build relationships with very large potential donors
   2. Proposal to update budget to revised budget. The revisions are:
      a. Slightly higher salaries as a result of salary negotiations.
      b. Substantially increased revenue projections/targets, which if reached would result in approx. 6 months of reserves by end of 2014. The revenue projections/targets in the previously approved budget would result in reserves below our reserve
target by end of 2014.

c. Decision: The revised budget is approved.


4. Progress update in relation to strategic plan
   a. The structure of the strategic plan has been updated after the blog post (March 13) to make it easier to follow progress
      i. The new structure is approved
      ii. We will try a new reporting process at the current and next board meeting:
          JB (directly or via SK) presents progress with a focus on objectives in the strategic plan:
          1. Focus on flagging objectives not progressing as planned, no need to read up and go through each objective.
          2. JB should also bring up other important matters even if they are not in the plan.
          3. We can revise the process if needed.
      iii. Other possible processes/additions to the process:
          1. JB fills out a checklist of whether objectives are progressing as planned and sends it to board members before each board meeting.
          2. Participants set the (say two) most important matters to have made progress on by the next board meeting.
   b. Presentation of current progress (by JB delivered by SK).
      i. All objectives are progressing as planned except regarding the activities
         1. “Complete pain and suffering matrix (quantifying animals’ ability to experience pain/pleasure)” and “Publish learnings from successes and failures of social justice movements,” which JB expects will be published in the fall due to lack of staff/volunteer time.
         2. Humane education results delayed expected to be published April 15.

5. Transparency
   a. The board favors transparency, for example publishing our budget, philosophy, bylaws, plans, etc.
   b. Considering having GiveWell’s level of transparency: It would likely be interesting to the kind of people in GiveWell’s core audience. A concern is that the audience of such people who are also enough interested in animals may be too small so ACE needs to target a wider audience than GiveWell. Such a wider audience might not find the GiveWell style of transparency appealing; for example, blogging about disagreements among staff/board members about where to give may leave a negative impression on the wider audience.
   c. Publishing more of the thought process in ACE’s narrowing down of recommendation candidates is a good idea if time allows so SK to check with JB whether JB and Allison Smith have time to.
6. Governance
   a. ACE bylaws are public on our Policies page
   b. Clarification in case of a tie when the board votes: JB is ex officio member of the board and tie-breaker: “may vote when and only when a vote is equally split between directors.” (Article IV Section 1 and Article V Section 3).
   c. Currently, President together with Vice President can veto votes if they are in the minority by 1 vote (Article V Section 3). SK and JB suggest we remove this rule from the bylaws.
      i. Decision: Remove the rule.
   d. Determine desirable composition of values on the board.
      i. Current board members aim for/are fine with a diversity of philosophies among board members
      ii. Board members’ philosophies might be less important to ACE than strategic views such as advocating abolition vs welfare improvements, or doing vegan outreach vs developing animal product substitutes.
      iii. It is important that board members gives roughly equal weight to animal suffering/welfare whether it is caused by humans or not

7. Board member candidates
   a. SK to contact I. Ross, he’s welcome to join more board meetings as a guest. The board wants to wait to vote him onboard due to his board membership at Compassion Over Killing, which could create a conflict of interest for ACE.
   b. RW to contact SBF

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: 10:00 am PDT, April 27, 2014

7. Meeting adjourned at 11:58 am PDT by SK

Submitted by:

Rob Wiblin, Board Secretary
Simon Knutsson, Board Chair