

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.
- 3. Report by SK from Elie Hassenfeld at GiveWell and SK conversation from March 16, 2014 (notes published here).
- 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