

Animal Charity Evaluators
Board of Directors Meeting
Type of Meeting: Standard Monthly Minutes
Date: September 28, 2014

In attendance:

Chairperson: Simon Knutsson
Treasurer: Brian Tomasik
Secretary: Rob Wiblin
Board Member: Sam Bankman-Fried
Executive Director: Jon Bockman

Absent:

Board Member: Peter Singer
Board Member: S. Greenberg

Quorum established: Yes

1. **Call to order:** SK called the meeting to order at 10:05 am PST
2. **Approval of minutes:** August minutes were approved via email.
3. **Items considered:**
 1. Brief financial update (JB)
 - a. Updated financials
 - b. **August Financials**
 - i. Beginning balance as of 08/01/2014: \$14,395.71
 - ii. August income: 4,905.25
 - iii. August expenses: - \$7,756.20
 - iv. August net income: - \$2,850.95
 - v. August budgeted income: \$12,800.00
 - vi. Ending balance as of 08/31/2014: \$11,544.76
 - vii. *Equivalent to approx. 1 ½ months expense*
 - c. **September Financials (9/1/2014 – 9/17/2014)**
 - i. Beginning balance as of 09/01/2014: \$11,544.76
 - ii. September income: \$6,150.00
 - iii. September expenses: -\$3,012.09
 - iv. September (to date) net income: \$3,137.91
 - v. September budgeted income: \$9,800.00
 - vi. Ending balance as of 09/17/2014: \$14,682.67
 - vii. *Equivalent to approx. 2 months expenses*
 2. Progress update (progress in relation to strategic plan) (JB)
 - a. PPV pilot

- i. We don't plan on running a PPV field study without outside assistance.
 - ii. Will publish a blog post this week and ask if others are interested in running it.
 - b. Social movements project
 - i. Ideally would establish deadlines, but may not be the right project for deadlines since we are not dedicating staff time to it right now (instead, interns work on it when not working on other projects).
 - ii. Suggestions are to use a standard question format for each movement, and to also look at unsuccessful movements.
 - iii. One board member does not expect significant insights (expects fuzziness). Academics are going to have different opinions on this because it's such a big topic.
 - 1. Consider partnering with academics, might be able to contract people to work on this project.
3. Fundraising (JB)
 - a. Matching Donation Drive
 - i. Will post in EAA Discussion Facebook group soon
 - ii. Should we consider bonuses for bigger donors?
 - 1. Could consider something like free t-shirts to those who raise certain amount of money, but don't think our audience cares as much about freebies.
 - 2. Could also consider privilege of attending exclusive webinar etc.
 - b. Volunteer and intern compiled names, will reach out starting Oct. 6
4. Cross hiring (JB)
 - a. Can an ACE intern also intern at another animal organization?
 - i. Less concerned with an intern working at organizations we consider because they are not key decision makers and not privy to sensitive information, but we should strongly advise against interns concurrently working at another organization. JB to run by the board for approval before allowing an intern to intern at the same time for an organization that we could recommend.
 - b. Can a part-time ACE employee work part-time at another animal organization?
 - i. Difficult to expect part-time employees for ACE to work for low pay and limited hours while also not allowing them to apply elsewhere.
 - ii. Concern is that external parties could spread untrue rumors about ACE and suggest bias. Want to avoid making people skeptical of ACE.
 - 1. One idea is to market test the idea to outsiders.
 - iii. JB will inform the staff that it could likely be a problem. JB to run by the board for approval before allowing a staff to also work at the same time for an organization that we could recommend.
5. Update: The document that lists key broad questions for ACE and the most important references that can be used to take a position on the questions (SK):
 - a. It was posted in the Facebook group ACE Advisors on September 19th, and on

EAA Discussion on September 26.

- i. A few resources have been added on EAA discussion.
 - b. Consider approaching other intellectuals about it, for example Carl Shulman
 - c. This may result in a “resources” section (“library”) on our site. Might be good to add a sentence or two with a description for each resource.
 - d. Publication and promotion of our preliminary take on the large questions: It could be good to put something out there and critique it, even if it is incomplete.
 - i. This is what BT does, but he’s an individual, not an organization. Maybe if it is explicit that these are our preliminary notes, as opposed to saying that these are the authoritative answers on the subject, it would be ok.
 - ii. Could be a wiki article.
 - iii. SK not worried that it will be looked upon as poor quality work.
 1. Could write as open questions/commentary rather than answers
 2. SK to write up if he has the time and discuss with Jon
6. Feedback on the revised strategic plan for 2015 (work in progress) (SK)
 - a. Discussion:
 - i. We will include in our goal to move resources other than money to our top charities (for example activist recruiting).
7. Strategy meeting (SK)
 - a. Schedule for November with PS
 - i. JB to try to schedule this with PS on October 26.
 - ii. Once the meeting is confirmed, send topics to bring up to JB or SK and they will compile an agenda.
8. BT presents his work on our financial checks and balances (SK)
 - a. Logs into Bank of America monthly to check finances, scans over transactions and makes sure that it looks reasonable.
 - b. Will spot check from time to time and dig into transactions that are initially difficult to understand (because too little information might be visible when logged into Bank of America)
9. Board recruitment: We need an volunteer admin person who is not a board member but willing to spend a fair amount of time. The candidate would to take initiatives, compose minutes, assist with board operations tasks, and possibly legal and tax issues.
 - a. JB and BT recommend Jacy if he is up for it. He’s competent to be a full board member and seems enthusiastic about helping out.
 - i. JB to reach out to Jacy, gauge interest (after talking with SK)
 - ii. Note: for legal work, could try freelancing website (freelancer.com)
10. Board member work and contributions:
 - a. Discussion: preferred way to contribute during the coming months?
 - i. RW has enjoyed managing James Evans and looking over his feedback on the ACE site. Strategy document is a good fit. Perhaps most fun is to look into the research that for example THL puts out.
 1. Will look over strategic plan closely and report to SK or the board within two weeks.

2. JB and SK to discuss and might connect RW with Allison Smith so that RW and AS can coordinate the analysis
 - ii. SBF will think about it. Most confident in contributing financially and networking. Also potentially reviewing documents such as the one with important questions.
 1. Will look over important questions document within two weeks and report to SK or the board.
 2. JB and SK to discuss SBF's preferences and get back to SBF.
 - iii. BT will try to add to the important questions document within two weeks. SK to touch base with BT.
11. Next board meeting: October 26. We may extend the time to include regular board matters after the conversation with PS.

4. New business: N/A

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

6. Next scheduled meeting: October 26 at 10am PDT

7. Meeting adjourned at 11:55am PDT on September 28 by SK.

Submitted by:

_____, Board Secretary

_____, Board Chair