

Leadership Birmingham Annual Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, June 6, 2023 - 1:30 p.m.
Vulcan Park and Museum

Attendees

Board: Cynthia Anthony, Jeffrey Bayer, Nelson Bean, Neal Berte, Sharon Blackburn, Bob Corley, Natalie Davis, Ann Florie, Cathy Friedman, Joe Hampton, Robert Earl Kelly, Emily Hess Levine, Chris Nanni, Bill Ritter, Guin Robinson, Tom Shufflebarger, Nick Willis, Cathy Wright

Staff: Libba Vaughan, Susan Shields Cash, Katherine Berdy

Guests: Matt Stewart from DiPiazza, LaRocca, Heeter & Co.

Chairman Bill Ritter called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bill Ritter requested to approve the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting on June 7, 2022. Guin Robinson made a motion to approve, and Neal Berte seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

Jacari Dillard, a 10th grade student from Ramsay High School, spoke about his experience in the YLF Class of 2023 that graduated on April 7, 2023.

Tim Mitchell, President of ASFA, gave his perspective on his experience as member of the Leadership Birmingham Class of 2023 that graduates on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

AUDIT REPORT

Matt Stewart reported a clean opinion on the 2021-2022 audit and overall a steady balance sheet from year to year. There is a 45% increase in revenue from the previous year which is due to the deferred tuition that carried over from the 20-21 Covid year when there was no class. The liquidation disclosure showed we have roughly a year of operating expenses in reserves which is very good.

Matt also mentioned that cash and cash equivalents sometimes exceed the federally insured limits. Jeffrey Bayer asked the bankers if there was any reason we should change that practice. Nick Willis, regional president of PNC and finance committee chair, said that it was discussed at the finance committee meeting and there was not much concern but they would keep an eye on it.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Nick Willis, Finance committee chair

Nick Willis asked the board for a motion to approve the audit at the recommendation of the finance committee. Natalie Davis made a motion and Joe Hampton seconded. The 2021-2022 audit was approved unanimously.

Nick presented the statement of financial position, the profit and loss statement, and the budget versus actuals for fiscal year 2022-2023 which has 24 days remaining. He stated that revenue was down, but we are expecting approximately \$42,000 in corporate contributions to arrive before the end of June. The member contributions are also down, but contributions will likely catch up as a reminder request went out to the Members Association in May. Nick noted that expenses have increased due to inflation on program costs such as transportation, food, etc. Some board members inquired about raising tuition and/or dues. Discussion ensued about tuition and dues levels. Libba

shared that the board approved a tuition increase in 2021 from \$1,750 to \$2,000 effective for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, and annual dues were increased from \$50 to \$75 approved by board in 2019 effective for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Increases to tuition and/or dues would be a reasonable consideration.

Nick asked the board for a motion to approve the budget at the request of the finance committee. Joe Hampton made a motion and Neal Berte seconded. The 2023-2024 budget was approved unanimously.

Nick shared that the staff and logistics coordinators pay for many program and operating expenses on personal credit cards and then receive reimbursement with submittal of receipts. The finance committee reviewed a company credit card option available through Regions and recommends providing organization credit cards for staff members and logistics coordinators where necessary. Guin Robinson asked about a policy concerning credit card use, and Libba confirmed the development of a policy along with specifying limits to each card. Nick Willis asked for a motion to approve the application of credit cards for Leadership Birmingham staff and logistics coordinators, and Guin Robinson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

GOVERNANCE – Bill Ritter, Governance committee chair

Bill Ritter asked board members to please review and sign the conflict of interest policy and return it to staff. The governance committee recommended the renewal of the Class of 2023-2026 board of directors. Nelson Bean seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM – Katherine Berdy, YLF Director

There were 34 members in the YLF class of 2023. Katherine said the class was terrific, and her expectations for her new role have been exceeded this year. She feels there is an opportunity to strengthen the connection between Leadership Birmingham and Youth Leadership Forum. A suggestion to change the name of YLF to Youth Leadership Birmingham has been met with strong support from the YLF steering committee, YLF students, and volunteers. Katherine will adjust the YLF selection process to include nominations from Leadership Birmingham and YLF alums in addition to school nominations.

MEMBERS ASSOCIATION - Lauren Roberts, Chair, Members Council

Lauren shared that she and Libba have worked to reinvigorate and restructure the members council. The members council had two retreats that resulted in a new structure to put more ownership onto the members. There are now three subcommittees of the members council: programs, communications, and membership. Lindsey Tanner is programs subchair and council vice chair, Alison Grizzle is membership subchair and council treasurer, and Rebecca Dobrinski is communications subchair and council secretary. The full council will meet three times annually and the subcommittees will meet 2-3 times a year and as needed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Libba Vaughan

The 53 members of the Class of 2023 graduate this upcoming weekend at Lake Guntersville State Park. This class has the highest female and minority percentage ever. Libba shared that class members are asked what they consider to be the three most pressing city/region challenges on their Leadership Birmingham applications. According to the class of 2023, the most pressing challenges are (1) education, (2) regional cooperation, (3) crime, and (4) lack of city and regional vision.

Evaluation scores ranked Justice Day as the highest overall followed by One Community and Human Services Days. The lowest ranked day was Government Day. Libba explained that we look at evaluation scores “with a grain of salt” as scores are related to many things – including strength of program day chairs, general frustration with program day issue, lack of transparency of speakers or highly engaging speakers, and how good lunch was- but they are useful to see trends and certainly to improve what we can control for future program days.

Libba shared how many volunteers it takes for each program day: each day requires two chairs, visits to 3-4 sites, and approximately 24 subject matter experts. This year, the class visited 36 separate sites with the direct engagement and support of 275 experts and other related volunteers. YLF visited 29 sites with the direct engagement and support of 150 volunteers. A successful Leadership Birmingham program day is a heavy lift, and volunteers are critical to the program success. Libba thanked the volunteers and the board of directors for their service. She specifically thanked board members Nelson Bean, Tom Shufflebarger, Drew Langloh, Philippe Lathrop, Alan Zeigler, and Ray Watts for hosting us this year, as well as Joe Hampton, Odessa Woolfolk, Mayor Randall Woodfin, Chris Nanni, Larry Thornton, Dick Pizitz, and Richard Arrington for speaking to the class this year. She also thanked Guin Robinson for attending and facilitating terrific caucus sessions on Justice and Quality of Life program days.

57 individuals were recently selected for the upcoming Class of 2024. (They have not been announced yet, but a list of those class members was passed around). Libba stated that the small business category needs focused recruiting, so we will be targeting and recruiting these people this upcoming year and will be asking specific board members and others for help in this process. Applicants from the religion and media categories have consistently been low and remained low this year. Overall, the quality of the candidates and the class members is incredibly high, and we look forward to another great group.

Bill Ritter adjourned the meeting and went into executive session at 2:58pm.

Minutes submitted by Susan Shields Cash.