



PINAL COUNTY TOWN HALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 12, 2018 – 10:00 AM

Historic 1891 Courthouse

Pinal County Complex

135 N. Pinal Avenue

Florence, AZ

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Sandie Smith called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM.

2. Introductions –

Members Present:

Sandie Smith, Chair

John Gluch

Greg Stanley

Janice Pratt

Joe Pyritz, Secretary

Bob Jackson

Mila Besich-Lira

Staff:

Maxine Brown

3. Discussion, consideration, Approval, Disapproval of Joseph Marsh for membership on the Pinal County Town Hall Advisory Committee representing the City of Coolidge nominated by Mayor Jon Thompson –

A motion was made by Joe and seconded by Mila to approve Mr. Marsh as a member representing Coolidge. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of January 8, 2018 Minutes – Joe Pyritz, Secretary

Motion was made by Greg and seconded by Joe to approve the minutes of January 8, 2018 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Review of Financials:

Maxine reviewed the financials as follows -

January 31, 2018 General Fund Balance \$221.8

January 31, 2018 Scholarship Fund Balance \$3,673.50

Pinal County Town Hall Fund - \$3,895.31 January 31, 2018 Balance

After discussion and questions were answered a motion to accept the January financials for filing was made by Bob and seconded by Joe and upon a vote carried unanimously.

6. Director's Report and Update –

Consideration of contract renewal – Sandie Smith, Chair

Motion was made by John and seconded by Joe to accept the director's contract extension as

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presented with no change from last year. Upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Maxine then reported that she had missed a 2015 scholarship for Juan Carrillo for \$1,000. Maxine had once again reviewed all the records she had plus the Annual Reports and could find no other scholarship recipient that was missed. Paying this \$1,000 scholarship would leave enough money in the Scholarship Fund to pay the 2017 scholarships when due. A motion to pay the 2015 scholarship was made by Bob and seconded by Greg. Upon a vote the motion passed unanimously.

Maxine also reported: 1) she had completed a form for Resolution Copper regarding their sponsorship, 2) had sent the 2017 Final Annual Report out with “Draft” on the cover page, and 3) Patty Robinson had called and she would have to resign due to health issues.

4) She also reported that she had heard from Richard Dinges, who could not attend due to a Pinal County Committee meeting he was attending. Richard had emailed her twice, and she had copied the emails to handout, regarding paying committee members mileage. The members present stated they understood the mileage issue but could not consider it because there were no funds to pay for volunteer mileage. The committee felt the mileage was part of their commitment to serve as volunteers. The issue is more funds are needed. Members also stated they felt they could pay their own Christmas party lunches, speaker presents were unnecessary, were Town Hall packets necessary and committee members might look at paying for their registrations the day of Town Hall. This is how the Town Hall had been conducted in past years. Fees for youth and chaperones do not pay for their share of Town Hall costs the day of the event. Perhaps Sponsors could be encouraged to pay their delegate registrations and donate the comped registrations to youth as Resolution Copper does for Superior High School.

Janice also suggested that a line be added to the registration form stating: “I am unable to attend, but please accept _____ as a donation.”

Bob stated that perhaps snowbirds that were just returning to the area could be a resource for registrations.

Sandie requested that everyone think about how Town Hall can bring in additional funding and this discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

7. Topic and Ideas for 31st Annual Pinal County Town Hall

a) Decision Made to Have a One-Day Event –

Sandie reviewed that the 31st Town Hall would be held Thursday October 18th. This had been the committees first choice of dates.

b) Robson Ranch, Eloy had been reserved of Thursday, October 18, 2018 and Robson had offered again to be a \$2,500 sponsor.

c) Suggested Topics from Committee: Civil Engagement/Civil Discourse or K to Career –
Maxine provided a handout that included the ideas for topics (pros and cons for each) and a list of suggested titles.

Bob said to raise funds and bring in a good attendance, the subject was key. Mila stated that the committee needed to re-look at where we had been. Attendees are younger now and have a different mindset. Younger professionals don’t want to sit all day. They would

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rather have no breaks and be finished by noon. Corporate sponsorships are also changing in what they fund.

Having small, breakfast Town Halls around county was discussed as they would be easier to attend and sell to groups.

Water as a Topic

Janice suggest the Town Hall be on “water.” Bob stated this would be a complicated subject that could not be completed in a one-day event. Even if just basics on water were discussed, the Town Hall would never get to the issues that concern Arizona and this would not draw the attendance Town Hall wanted. Also, water would be technical and boring. Mila explained the issues related to the mines and Indians could become controversial. John explained as a citizen, he would not go if the topic was not interesting to him.

Janice suggested civil discourse could be luncheon speaker topic. Water could have a panel of Agriculture/Mines/Cities/Counties represented. Members were concerned without the water basics, attendees would not understand unless they were in the water-field. Could do water without water law and take in economic development, housing, and growth for jobs. Just review practical problems facing Pinal County with water.

Mila stated Florence was receiving a grant from the Smithsonian Water Ways focusing of what local rivers mean to Pinal County. Town Hall might be able to tie into that resource.

Joe suggested a one-day event with different topics AM and PM (i.e. Civic Discourse AM and Water PM).

Reaching the Audience

Bob was concerned that Town Hall was not reaching everyone and agreed breakfasts throughout the county would involve more people.

Sandie suggested to go around county and offer to speak to Rotary, Lions, Optimists, etc. and give history of Town Hall and discuss the last report. Explain we were looking for sponsors and about the scholarship program we offered. Mila stated good idea, but speaker must be relevant and stay focused.

Civil Discourse as a Topic

Election year and must be careful who speakers are and that the discussion does not become political. Must find a way to make it relevant, interesting and evaluate what is important to Pinal County – keep local. Language on social media has become bad. How to communicate could be a session. Difficult to engage with under 30 group. Need to get kids involved. Highlight inter-cultural community engagement. Suggested Title: “Why is so much social media antisocial!”

Discussion to continue. Committee felt the next Town Hall would be on Civil Engagement.

d) Fund Raising Ideas/New Sponsors – All

Bob requested a listing of sponsors and a one to two-page bullet point on the 2017 Annual Report, just the highlights.

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Mila suggested the committee develop a short video with bullet points or checklist. Joe said he could help with this project.

- 8. Comparison of Revenues and Expenses from 2013 – 2-day Town Hall, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017**
Tabled
- 9. Estimated Funding Needed to Reach Break Even Point – Maxine Brown**
Tabled
- 10. Need for Advisory Committee Members – San Tan, San Manuel/Mammoth/Oracle, Tribal Representative**
Tabled
- 11. Next Meeting March 12, 2018 Meeting**
Sandie announced the next meeting would be on Monday, March 12, 2018
- 12. Other Business**
There was no further business.
- 13. Adjourn**
Sandie adjourned the meeting at 11:47 AM.