



CALIFA Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, January 14, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PST

Califa Board Meeting – January 14, 2022

Start Time: January 14, 2022 at 10:04 a.m.

In Attendance:

Califa Board Members in attendance:

- Todd Deck
- Yolande Wilburn
- Sara Jones
- James Ochsner
- Gary Shaffer
- Sandy Hirsh
- Carl Pritzkat (arrived at 10:28 a.m.)
- Misty Jones
- *Absent:*
 - Shawn P. Calhoun

Califa Staff in attendance:

- Paula MacKinnon (Executive Director)
- Veronda Pitchford (Assistant Director)
- Christian DeLay (Staff)
- Marci Haghnia (Staff)
- Nili Nosrati (Staff)
- Kathy Kosinski (Staff)

Other attendees:

- Stewart Preziose – Boston Private (arrived at 10:28 a.m. Departed at 11:00 a.m.)
- Tracy Tuens – Boston Private (arrived at 10:32 a.m. Departed at 11:00 a.m.)

Meeting

I. Call to Order-President – 5 minutes

a. Introductions/Quorum

10:04 a.m. meeting called to order by Sandy Hirsh.

b. Approval of January 14, 2022 Agenda (ACTION)

Gary Shaffer moved to approve the agenda. Misty Jones seconded. All approved.

c. Approval of September 10, 2021 Minutes (ACTION)

Sandy Hirsh asked for the spelling of her last name in the September minutes to be corrected.

Yolande Wilburn moved to approve minutes as updated. Sara Jones seconded. All approved.

II. Finance report – 37 minutes

a. Audit Update – Completed!

Paula MacKinnon announced the audit arrived a little early this year and that it was successful. She stated Califa had a small loss of \$200 thousand which is most likely tied to grants closing and opening. She said it is most likely related to the \$400 thousand gain last year.

Paula announced they will have a more in-depth appraisal of the audit at the next board meeting with further information.

b. Investment Policy Recommendations (ACTION)

Paula MacKinnon gave an overview of the investment policy recommendation process. She stated that some basic changes need to be made to the text and that the finance committee had looked at outside firms for investing. The finance committee contacted two firms: Morgan Stanley and Califa's current bank, Boston Private. The committee recommended that the board choose to go with Boston Private as their quotes featured better rates than Morgan Stanley's quotes.

Gary Shaffer added that the style of Morgan Stanley investments makes better sense for Friends or Foundations than for an organization like Califa.

Paula MacKinnon announced that the finance committee recommends that Califa opens a non-interest-bearing bank account.

Sandy Hirsh also emphasized the finance committee discussed the action items in depth.

There was a quick break on the topic until the Boston Private representatives arrived on the call.

Stewart Preziose and Tracy Tuens from Boston Private arrived and presented to the board on the specifics their proposal. They stated that they have a lot of experience working with nonprofits.

They focused on a couple of selling points:

- Boston Private will share information in the way the Califa board prefers
- Boston Private will ensure cash flows will be ready when needed

Their proposed asset allocation included greater diversification of the portfolio especially into international investments.

Paula MacKinnon asked how the pandemic has had an impact on their investing methods. Stewart Preziose said that Boston Private invests for the long term. They did some tactic changes on the short term and actively look at each individual investment to ensure it is safe, such as no longer investing in Royal Caribbean due to short term risk. Stewart said they see an expectation in raising interest rates due to inflation.

Paula MacKinnon asked if Boston Private looks at funds through an EDI lens or a perspective that the companies are copacetic with the company that is investing. Stewart Preziose said that Boston Private can do that a bit, but not much. They have strategies at larger investment amounts. This current proposal is built on a smaller amount. "Alternatives" is where they can best invest in this proposed allocation, but he said it is not in Califa's best interests right now.

Boston Private said they are providing a 30% discount to the tiered fee schedule. With this schedule, Califa will come out ahead even on a fixed income.

After Stewart Preziose and Tracy Tuens left the call, Carl Pritzkat highlighted that a fixed income will cover their fees. Yolande Wilburn stated their presentation was well done and that Califa will save money following it.

Action item: Approve Califa going forward with working with Boston Private on investment policy with further updates as work progresses.

Carl Pritzkat moved. Todd Deck seconded. All approved.

Paula MacKinnon thanked Sandy Hirsh, Gary Shaffer, and Shawn P. Calhoun for all the extra time and work they put into the process.

Action item: Approve Califa opening a non-interest-bearing account.

Gary Shaffer moved. Carl Pritzkat seconded. All approved.

III. Old Business – 54 minutes

a. Board Member Elections - Update

Paula MacKinnon updated the board on the status of various members' terms:

- Sandy Hirsh's term will end June 2022. As it is her second consecutive term the board will need to find someone new to appoint.
- James Ochsner and Gary Shaffer's first consecutive election terms are up in June 2022. Paula MacKinnon mentioned they are eligible to run again.
- Carl Pritzkat's first consecutive term end will be in June 2022 and he is eligible to be appointed again.

Gary Shaffer stated that while he would love to stay on, he is too overextended at the current time. He mentioned he would welcome a future return to the board.

Sandy Hirsh said she loves serving on the Califa board, but she wants to be sensitive to leaving space for new voices and fresh faces.

b. Califa update

Paula MacKinnon announced that the broadband aggregator grant went to Columbia Telecommunications Corporation (CTC) located in Washington, D.C. CTC had previously worked with the California State Library (CSL). CTC will do what Califa did but also will include work on last mile connectivity. Paula MacKinnon said CSL and CENIC wanted an engineering firm to complete this last mile connectivity.

Paula MacKinnon added that the announcement to the field has been held up by negotiations between CSL and CTC. In the meantime, Paula MacKinnon said that Califa is helping with billing for the next couple months with the goal to transition in March. Gary Shaffer clarified that the grant was written in such a way that Califa was not eligible to win it.

James Ochsner said that Califa's handling of broadband had made his job so easy. He emphasized that Christian DeLay does good work making his life easier by answering his questions quickly.

Paula MacKinnon announced that CSL is working with Lyasis for the Palace Project eBook project. CSL will be working with Black Gold Cooperative as the fiscal manager in California. She reiterated that Califa will find its place in this situation, but for the time being, Califa has separate eBook ideas to pursue.

Sara Jones stated that through her meetings in the state of Washington, she thinks there is room for collaboration with the Palace Project and Califa.

Veronda Pitchford gave a presentation about the latest Califa and Infopeople activities. She asked if the board would be interested in quarterly learning event lists. Carl Pritzkat and Misty Jones both said they would be interested in receiving learning event lists.

IV. Agenda Building, Scheduling the Next Meeting – 7 minutes

a. Scheduling the next meeting

The board agreed to aim for the beginning of April to avoid the Public Library Association conference and leave time to finalize board election plans.

The board agreed the next meeting will be from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Pacific on Thursday April 14, 2022.

b. Agenda building

- Discuss the elections for the Califa Board of Directors

- Investment Policy Update

While discussing the future elections, Carl Pritzkat gave a thumbs up that he is happy to serve another year on the board.

James Ochsner said he will weigh in on whether he stays on the board or not. He will get respond to the board later.

Sandy Hirsh asked what the process is for building out the strategic plan to ensure we are achieving the mission and values. She said it is an important activity/goal and we need to make sure we are achieving what we want to achieve.

Paula MacKinnon said she doesn't know yet what the process is yet. She said Califa is currently addressing the websites first to rejig them into tools that reflect who we are and what we are doing.

V. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.