

SVVMA Charitable Foundation Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2016

Members present: Dr. Kelly Byam, Dr. Marsha Birdsall, Dr. Tobie Faith, Joan Gibson Reid, Pat Schmid, Dr. Barb Laderman-Jones, Alex Pietrzyk, Dr. Tamsen Taylor, Dr. Brent Wooden, Dr. Ken Pawlowski., Dr. Sheryl Fuller, Dr. Dan Kittel

Meeting called to order at approximately 7:00pm.

The meeting was preceded by a half hour meeting of the investment committee. Members present at investment committee meeting were Dr. Tamsen Taylor, Pat Schmid, Dr. Byam, Dr. Pawlowski, Dr. Faith, Dr. Birdsall, and Mark Sisto, financial advisor. Mark Sisto, financial advisor. Quarterly reports were reviewed. Our assets are currently at approx.\$460,000. We are currently at a 6% return as of August 2016. The investment is still at a 60 (fixed income):40 (equity/mutual) ratio. This is a fairly conservative investment consistent with SVVMA CF philosophy. Upcoming concerns are 3 large national and international bank meetings concerning interest rates, and the presidential election. Mark Sisto recommended continuing with our current course and see what happens. This was moved by Pat Schmid and seconded by Kelly Byam. Passed unanimously.

Minutes from April 21, 2016 meeting were accepted.

Correspondence Report (given by Dr. Birdsall):

Thank you letters were received from the following grant-recipient organizations: Project Ride and Ride to Walk.

Treasurer's Report:

Dr. Birdsall distributed a written report to each attendee, including a Donations Summary comparison for 2014-2016, Expenses Comparison for January through June of 2015 and 2016; and Portfolio Summary comparing total value at the end of December 2015 and June 2016. Expenses have decreased due to decreased taxes, which is what we had planned. So far in 2016, we have donated \$17,360. Based on our previously budgeted amount of \$22,528, we have approximately \$5168 left to donate this calendar year. Portfolio value as of June 30, 2016 was \$447,944, increased approximately \$6000 from April 2016.

Old Business:

Dr. Byam reported that she found a company, Charity Advantage, which specializes in website design for non-profits and will design our website for free. We will need to pay maintenance fees for the site, which will be something less than \$50 per month. Cost for design, if we paid for it, would likely be close to \$1000. Other companies offered somewhat lower monthly fees but did not offer free design. Dr. Byam is willing to serve as a point person for website design.

Dr. Byam moved, and Dr.Laderman-Jones seconded, that we pursue establishment of our own website through Charity Advantage. Motion carried. Dr. Byam will move forward with implementation.

Dr. Birdsall purchased appreciation gifts for Dr. Biesedecki and Jan Ardrey. She passed around cards that everyone signed. Dr. Birdsall will ensure that the cards and gifts are delivered.

Alex will plan to send her successor as UC Davis Student Representative to our next meeting. Dr. Pawlowski suggested recruiting a second year rather than a first year student. Members were reminded that the student representative is a non-voting member of the Charitable Foundation, and that the position is open to any interested student. It is expected that the Student Representative will help maintain our Facebook page.

New Business:

Dr. Laderman-Jones announced that we received a grant application from the City of Sacramento Front Street Animal Shelter. They requested \$1000 to purchase vaccines for monthly free vaccine clinics or city residents that are unable to afford vaccines for their pets. Each monthly clinic serves 100-150 pets and is run by volunteers, with the city providing a

veterinarian. The application was discussed. It was noted that the City of Sacramento may not be an eligible recipient because they do not have a non-profit status number, and that a cover letter with history, goals and mission of the organization was not provided. There was also some concern that these vaccine clinics could potentially be in direct competition with the businesses of SVVMA members, although it was pointed out that we have made recent grants to support similar activities, such as subsidized spay & neuter services by the Yolo County SPCA.

Dr. Laderman-Jones will contact the applicant and ask them to resubmit the application with the required non-profit status number and cover letter. She will suggest that they ask the Friends of the Front Street Shelter (a non-profit organization) to apply on their behalf.

Dr. Birdsall provided feedback on many of the grant recipients listed in the Donations Summary Comparison for 2014 through 2016. Her comments, intended to help us determine if we wanted to continue directing funds in similar manners for the rest of this year and future years, included the following:

- California Raptor Center sent only a form letter of thanks
- Consumnes River College RVT program has trouble finding qualified recipients for the scholarships we fund there.
- Mercer Clinic for the Homeless – we made a one-time only donation in honor of Tom Kendall. We have not received a letter of thanks.
- Project Ride and Sacramento Splash have consistently provided very impressive personalized letters of appreciation. Ride to Walk is a new recipient but also provided a similarly impressive letter of thanks.
- Senior Gleaners doesn't exist anymore.
- Several organizations have not applied in the last year or two, including River City Cat Rescue, Sacramento Area Animal Coalition, Placer SPCA, Fieldhaven Feline Rescue, Gabby Jack Ranch.
- Scholarships for UC Davis students require significant effort by the students to apply, and students typically show heartfelt appreciation.

There was further discussion of contributions to the Don Low Fellowship fund. Dr. Pawlowski pointed out that some years ago, SVVMA CF had provided an endowment to this fund, which should be sufficient to secure at least one fellowship position for a qualified applicant who is a SVVMA member. It should not be necessary for us to continue to make annual contributions of \$3000 to this fund, as we did in 2014 and 2015. It was agreed that we would not continue to contribute to the Don Low Fellowship fund in the future. Dr. Pawlowski also pointed out that the SVVMA needs to better advertise Don Low Fellowship opportunities to SVVMA members.

Dr. Jones suggested, and those present generally agreed, that we should direct more funds to UC Davis student scholarships in future years, to increase the number of students who receive scholarships, and/or increase the amount of each scholarship. Dr. Birdsall pointed out that we could direct funds to this before the end of 2016, so that the scholarship amounts awarded in 2017 could include some funds from 2016. This will be decided on at our next meeting.

It was also suggested that we review and possibly revise the criteria for RVT student scholarships at Consumnes River College. Dr. Birdsall will ask our contact at CRC to provide the criteria they are currently using and will bring it to our next meeting.

The **next meeting will be Thursday December 15 at 7:15pm at Lemon Grass Restaurant. Note that the date and time are slightly different than what was agreed upon before the conclusion of the meeting,** due to limitations in availability at the restaurant.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dr. Barb Laderman-Jones.