

Minutes of the ORA Board Meeting – April 2007

Call to Order

The April meeting of the Board of Directors of Ozark Regional Alliance (ORA) was called to order at 11:15 A.M. Friday, April 13, 2007, at the Midtown, Carnegie Branch Library in Springfield, MO. The president chaired the meeting and took minutes in the absence of the secretary and vice-president.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 16, 2007 board meeting were reviewed. Jaci McReynolds provided additional background information for board members who had not attended. Jinny Hopp made a motion that the following sentence "A motion by Carol to move the ORA account to US Bank by the July meeting was approved." be corrected as follows: "A motion by Carol to move the ORA account to US Bank was approved." The motion was seconded by Wayne Deitrich and approved.

Other changes included correcting Michelle Morris' name and the meeting date in the header.

Jinny also motioned that Jaci provide her meeting notes about the language lab projects to the board. Motion was seconded by Kathleen King and approved.

Wayne made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion was seconded by Kathleen and approved.

Financial Report

Treasurer, Michelle Morris stated the ORA account balance stands at \$303.30 for the Hickory County Project and \$76.25 in the general ORA fund. She reported that she has not yet received all the documentation from Carol Conway on the Hickory County project. She also stated that the annual fee for the security deposit box at Commerce has not yet been deducted. She changed the address with the bank so that statements are now being mailed to her Bolivar office, rather than the Extension office in Mt. Vernon.

A discussion ensued on the practicality of transferring funds to US Bank. Michelle reported that she spoke with US Bank. They require a minimum of \$300 to open a new account and checks would cost at least \$25.00. Kathleen made a motion to leave the finances at Commerce Bank, close the security deposit box and accept the financial report. Motion was seconded by Wayne and approved.

Literacy Committee Report

Wayne reported that he spoke with Rick Mammen at University Extension about a possible \$3,000 pot of Alianzas money that may be able to be used for ORA projects. Rick tentatively said if ORA could purchase Ellis software, the money could possibly be used to purchase two or three laptops.

Jinny reported on Cambio. A Monett ESL teacher was at the conference with her school resource officer. The school has computers and Ellis software. Jinny doesn't know what happened to the computers that were at the church in Monett. Jinny would like to get Monett and Carthage schools to share their computers with the community. ParentLink is also interested in looking into a donation for Ellis.

Jinny distributed materials from Cambio on new passport requirements, legal aid, Medicaid + and FDIC information. She said ESL teachers at the conference expressed

frustration and are starting a letter-writing campaign. She reported it was the best Cambio she has attended, and she was able to hear about a lot of projects being done.

Wayne added that one fascinating presentation was from a college instructor in Arizona named Dr. Diaz on how people learn.

Jinny suggested ORA participate in Cambio in the future and suggested looking into scholarships.

Public Relations Committee

Jaci had previously asked all board members to review the Web site. The board would like to see more local photos (Jinny will provide some), a larger font and a description of projects (all board members are asked to provide detail on projects they've worked on). All board members need to review the partners list and provide Jaci with feedback.

Jinny made a motion to ask Pat Williams if he would be interested in writing up a brief history of ORA. The motion was seconded by Kathleen and approved.

Jinny will also create a communication tool for past participants. Jaci will ask Melonie Roberts at the Monett Times for the use of pictures and any history the paper may have compiled.

A motion was made by Kathleen that Jaci not come to the board for continuous approval on web content, but just use good judgment in uploading content. Motion was seconded by Jinny and approved.

Old Business

A motion was made by Wayne Deitrich to approve all discussion points listed on today's board meeting agenda under "old business" through "Policies regarding ORA Partnership Agreement" with the change of adding the word "create" before "proposal to establish ORA Advisory Council" and again before "Policies regarding ORA Partnership Agreements". The motion was seconded by Jinny and approved.

A motion was made by Jinny to leave the position of ORA historian open and table the nomination of ORA board secretary until the next board meeting. Motion was seconded by Michelle and approved.

February Board Meeting Discussions

Wayne made a motion to accept the proposal for ORA Advisory Council after re-titling it "ORA Advisory Council." Motion was seconded by Michelle and approved.

The "Policy for ORA Partnership Agreements" was reviewed by the board and several changes recommended. Michelle made a motion that Jaci type up a new version with the changes included and bring to next board meeting for a vote. Motion was seconded by Jinny and approved.

The "ORA Board of Directors Policy for Online Voting" was reviewed by the board and several changes recommended. Jaci took notes and read the re-written version to the board. Kathleen made a motion to accept the online voting policy with changes as re-read. Motion was seconded by Michelle and approved. (Revised version attached.)

Jinny made a motion that in lieu of developing separate financial protocols for grants, ORA's board follow procedures as outlined in each grant, follow organizational procedures

and utilize ORA's financial policies and partnership agreements to guide decision making. Motion was seconded by Michelle and approved.

The board discussed the option of developing mobile computer labs for basic literacy, health literacy and ESOL projects. Alianzas money may possibly be used for hardware, but other costs are likely to include travel, administration and training. Wayne is working with the Extension office and a church in Branson on partnership possibilities. No action was taken by the board on this agenda item.

Jaci received an email invitation to the Hickory County ORA meeting from Patricia Weiss. Jaci replied asking if she and Bill Arnold needed any assistance in organizing the meeting, but received no reply. She assumes they are all set.

New Business

Michelle presented information on the Missouri Foundation for Health Basic Support Grant. It could provide administrative fees and allow ORA to hire a person(s) to develop and deliver the modules. The grant is due May 14th. Interested members of the board will meet May 1st at 10:00 am in Springfield to help Michelle complete the application. Jinny made a motion to review and vote on the Missouri Foundation for Health Basic Support Grant online in accordance with the new online voting policy, since the grant will be due before the next ORA board meeting. Motion was seconded by Wayne and approved.

Jinny explained her outline for the Carthage meeting, to allow local partners to give short presentations on their projects and then allow the group to mingle and ask questions individually. She may also have an Ellis demonstration.

Jaci briefly introduced a new opportunity to present the modules to a group of people from around the region who are Deaf or Hard-of-hearing. She will bring a partnership proposal to the next board meeting.

Adjournment

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Wayne and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Members present and voting: Jaci McReynolds, Jinny Hopp, Wayne Dietrich, Kathleen King and Michele Morris.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaci McReynolds, President

Attachments:

Revised DRAFT Policy for ORA Partnership Agreements (to be voted on at next board meeting)

Revised DRAFT Memorandum of Partnership (to be voted on at next board meeting)

Revised ORA Advisory Council (approved)