

16 September 2015

Meeting minutes

Rebecca Webber called the meeting to order

In attendance - Betty Bernal, Tejal Tarro, Josephine O'Connell, Gayle Goldin, Stephanie Gonzalez, Barbara Wong, Maribeth Calabro, Adriana Dawson, Rebecca Webber, Janet Coit, Lisa Middleton, Kate Wilson

Administrative updates:

+ We acknowledged the challenges of operation without staff or associated resources. As we continue to build our fundamentals, we intend to stay tuned to the activities of other, established groups with aligned interests to leverage their expertise and resources.

+ The website has been taken down to avoid further confusion for the public. In future meetings, we will discuss appropriate content and development.

+ We did not have an opportunity to review the by-laws, but a discussion about their structure and content will feature prominently in our next meeting.

+ Attendance will become increasingly important as we require a quorum for votes and approach the legislative session. Please make every effort to attend the upcoming meetings.

Programmatic updates:

+ Deb Perry from the YWCA presented on her organization's mission, current work, and upcoming initiatives. She also provided an overview of the YWCA's role as a fiscal agent, conventional structure, and requisite demands. Deb explained that the YWCA holds funds as a fiscal agent at a rate of 2%-5%, depending on the amount and demands. Competitive funding opportunities may present a conflict, but otherwise there are no parameters on the status of the funds. A legal contract or an MOU would document the arrangement, but it requires YWCA board consent, and the board meets infrequently. At our next meeting, we will recount the conversation, conduct a discussion, and make a determination as to the fate of our remaining funds. Please come prepared to discuss the best options for our funding at our next meeting.

+ Tejal volunteered a comprehensive assessment of the value of aligning our work with other aligned groups in RI. The point was made that these groups could perform some of the heavier lifting, and our organization could serve as a vocal platform for discussion. Moreover, we do not want to undermine their activities with redundancy or encroachment. To that end, there was a proposal to

conduct a panel of (perhaps ~3) representatives from other, like-minded organizations at an upcoming meeting so we could discern gaps in interest areas to maximize our contribution. Please come prepared with suggestions for panel representatives at our next meeting.

+ Since we didn't have an opportunity to review the by-laws, we will begin with that discussion in our next meeting. The current draft is attached for reference, please come prepared to discuss thoughts and edits for the by-laws.