

WSCO February Board Meeting 2-23-26

Present: Electra Skrzydlewski, Jazzalyn Baker, Larry Lucio, Soleil Ramirez, Coral Gessner, Joy Sorensen Navarre, Santino Franco, Jeannine Pohl, Laura Hermer

Absent: Nancy Negrette, Raniya Abawari, Sebastian Gonzalez-Navarro, Ana Perez, Yasmin Muridi

Staff: Elizabeth Coco, Monica Bravo

Guest: Leah Porter

Consent Agenda: Approved consent agenda with a mathematical correction/amendment to the net operating revenue to the financials.

Vote on vice-chair: Larry Lucio; 8 in favor, one abstaining.

State of WSCO, by Monica and Coco: Discussion of organizational structure; 2026 Fund development update; Individual income fundraising for rent and small business support; donor engagement and retention; Hummingbird training + rent assistance fund; Southport initiative; WSCO small business vitality support; C-COAP Update.

Board and staff retreat on April 11.

Leah on **Fundamentals of Nonprofit Governance.**

Fiduciary duties: Board members owe duties of care, loyalty, and obedience to the organization.

Board types: “startup” (or “working”) board for new organizations; “policy” board for ones involved in some initiatives but also taking a higher-level perspective on the more general orientation and health of the organization; “institutional” board that meet a handful of times per year and are removed from daily work.

Board responsibilities:

- Ensure healthy governance by engaging with the community and creating an equity mindset, recruiting and orienting board members.
- Lead strategically by strategic thinking, monitoring and evaluating programs creating robust meetings - learning together, working on board business, and relationship building.
- Ensure financial stability by being able to read and interpret financial statements, having financially savvy board members, know the basics and require good reporting, and ensure compliance, and be transparent to constituents and the public.

- Be an ambassador – have an elevator speech and build relationships in the community (large and small), and enhance the organization’s image. Also, assist with the development cycle.
- Support and supervise the executive director by setting the goals, evaluating and supporting the ED, doing the ED’s annual performance review, overseeing pay changes for the ED, and attending to succession planning.

Executive committee works with the ED to plan the board agenda and work on matters of organizational policy, fiscal health and strategy, etc.

Board decision making – Robert’s Rules are traditional, but Fist to Five is easier to manage and learn.

More to come on serving on a nonprofit board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.