

**Avila Beach Community Foundation
Board Meeting – March 20, 2020 - 12:00 pm
Teleconference
MEETING MINUTES**

Board Members Present:

President: Mike Ginn
Vice President: Cyndy Lakowske
Secretary: Ellen Pitrowski
Treasurer: Richard Zacky
Lucinda Borchard
Joe Caradonna
Patrick Corrigan
Percy Jones
Barbara Nicholson
Brooke Salvini

Staff:

Executive Director: Rick Cohen
Project Specialist: Stephanie Rowe

Other:

Trustee Members Absent:

Bev Aho
Saul Goldberg
Paul Prather

- 1. Meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by Mike Ginn**
- 2. Roll Call by Stephanie Rowe**
- 3. Purpose of Today's Meeting:** The board has been approached by the Central Coast Aquarium to help provide some financial relief needed to help get them through their temporary business closure during the COVID-19 global health emergency. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss whether to take a pro-active approach to address financial assistance for Avila based non-profit agencies, residents or employees during this time and also to address the request from the Central Coast Aquarium.
- 4. Open Forum Discussion:**
 - a. The board discussed whether to take any action at the present time to provide financial assistance to Avila based non-profit agencies, residents or employees.
 - o The board agreed to immediately have Rick Cohen compose a draft policy/strategic statement that can be applied to any future requests. He will send it to the board for feedback.
 - o The board also asked Rick to provide a list of 2020 grantees in preparation for future requests.

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5. Review the Request from Central Coast Aquarium:

- a. The board reviewed the following request from Christine Johnson, Executive Director of the Central Coast Aquarium:

“As you might imagine, COVID-19 has taken its toll on nonprofits as well as other businesses. Central Coast Aquarium has been closed since March 15 due to the virus. All our school programs are cancelled and its likely we will not see Grade K-12 students return to school at all this year. CCA's mission is greatly impacted by the anticipated cancellation of all school programs for the spring (we were fully booked for field trips from mid-March through first week in June), special activities planned for the two week spring break period, and the total shutdown of our public exhibit hall to stop the spread of COVID. We rely on school programs in the spring as well as a busy spring break season to support our operations year round. We are going to take a hit like we have never experienced before if we cannot open by summer.

So, we are reaching out to donors and other community groups to see if support is possible to assist us in keeping the aquarium functioning by providing basic life support to our animals, so we are ready to reopen ASAP when things settle down. Avila Beach Community Foundation has been a generous grant funder in the past and I'm reaching out to see if the Foundation has opportunities for support during this unprecedented time.”

• **Cyndy Lakowske made a motion to re-classify the already approved \$5,000 project grant for this year for their emergency use, Lucinda Borchard seconded, and all approved.**

6. Assistance to Individuals:

- a. The board discussed whether to consider assistance for local hourly-wage Avila residents or employees who have lost their jobs or experienced reduced hours and could use some help meeting basic needs. After some discussion, the board decided to table the item to come up with ideas for discussion at the next meeting.

7. Adjourn Meeting – Meeting adjourned by Mike Ginn at 12:32 pm.

Next Meetings

Investment Committee, Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 5:00 pm

Board Meeting, Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 4:30 pm