

ACRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 18, 2015

Board members present: Mike Lee, Richard McBryde, John Johnson, Jim Nichols. Darrell White, Sr., Tim Cook, Francis Bradley, Doug Sanders, George Harris, Gary James, Don Lewis, Bob McCulley, and Dan Melancon. (13 members present)

Call to Order: A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by Vice President Richard McBryde. It should be noted that President Mike Lee was attending a meeting at city hall and will proceed to the meeting ASAP.

Guest Speaker: VP McBryde introduced Jeffery Schneiderman, a benefits advisor, who gave a 30 minute presentation on a digital benefits program to assist pre65 retirees on finding alternative healthcare programs. More information will be posted on the ACRE webpage.

Opening Prayer: Mike Lee

Approval of the minutes: John Johnson presented the minutes for the board of directors meeting and the membership meeting in July for approval.

Motion by Richard McBryde to approve the minutes of both meetings, seconded by George Harris.

Discussion: No discussion.

Board Action: The motion passed without objection.

Secretary's Report: John Johnson

Motion by John Johnson to approve the amended treasurer's report for June, 2015, seconded by Richard McBryde.

Discussion: No discussion.

Board Action: The motion passed without objection.

Motion by John Johnson to accept an email letter of resignation from Dennis Pope which was submitted on July 31, 2015 at 7:11 am, seconded by Robert McCulley.

Discussion: Dennis Pose was appointed to the non-voting position of assistant IT/Webmaster. A copy of Dennis' email will be retained in the file.

Board Action: The motion passed without objection.

Motion by John Johnson to approve the email approval to allow Dan Melancon to handle the questions to candidates who are running for an elected position as he sees fit and the treasurer to provide the funds for printing and postage, seconded by Jim Nichols.

Discussion: No discussion.

Board Action: The motion passed without objection.

Treasurers Report, Jim Nichols.

In appreciation of the MPA allowing us to use their building for an office, use of the copy machine, use of their secretaries, and board meetings for the past 25 years at no charge, Jim Nichols made the following motion:

Motion by Jim Nichols that ACRE donate a 70 inch TV/Monitor for the conference room, seconded by Gary James.

Discussion: The purchase price was \$1,999.95. The funds came from the 2014 reserve funds that was not spent last year.

Board Action: The motion passed without objection.

Jim Nichols also presented the July treasurer's report for approval.

Motion by Darrell White to approve the July treasurer's report, seconded by George Harris. A copy of his report is on file and is available for review.

Discussion: No discussion.

Board Action: The motion passed without objection.

Public Relations and IT/Webmaster Report. Tim Cook

Tim had to leave to attend a meeting at city hall. He distributed his IT and public relations report before leaving. A copy of his report will be made a part of the minutes of this board meeting.

Pension Board Report Dan Melancon.

As of the pension board meeting in July, the pension is 86.9% funded with a balance of \$2.201 billion. Dan reminded the board members that the balance in the fund is dependent upon the stock market, among other things.

Political Committee Report: Dan Melancon

Six questions were sent to the candidates for mayor and city council. A copy of the questions will become a part of the file minutes. The questions were sent to 70 individuals. As of this date only 27 responded. Of the 4 leading candidates (Wharton, Williams, Strickland, and Collins) only 2 responded. They were Williams and Collins. Wharton and Strickland did not respond to ACRE's questions.

Motion by Darrell White to send out a newsletter ASAP that will include information on the six questions to all candidates and their responses with the understanding that a second newsletter will go out after the final city council decision is made as it pertains to the pre65 retiree healthcare after the 1st Tuesday of September. Seconded by Bob McCulley

Discussion: The motion was well discussed.

Board Action: The motion passed without objection.

President Lee pointed out that in the 25 years of existence ACRE has remained A-Political which means that ACRE, because of the diversity of members, has never endorsed specific candidates for office. He asked the board to decide whether ACRE is going to get completely involved in politics.

Motion by Darrell White that ACRE will remain an A-Political organization and not endorse any candidate for office and make no monetary contributions to a candidate's campaign. Seconded by Bob McCulley.

Discussion: It was agreed that ACRE will publish questions and responses to the questions by candidates that chose to respond and the members could decide for themselves who they should support.

Board Action: Motion passed without objection.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned.

John M. Johnson

Secretary