

Sitka Alaska Permanent Charitable Trust

Meeting minutes

May 14, 2013

7:00pm – Thad calls meeting to order.

Roll call. Members present: John Holst, Steve Reifentstahl, Thad Poulson, Stan Filler, Cmdr. Ward Sandlin, ASB President Nick Weatherman. Members absent: Dr. PJ Ford-Slack

7:02 pm – Steve begins with the science side of the applications. He believes all candidates have strong merit. Sitka High School (SHS) is already well funded, but still deserving. Sitka Sound Science Center does top shelf work and delivers a huge bang for the buck. SHS will be covered by the school district no matter what, so the \$3850 that needs to be cut should be cut from the high school.

Thad comments that the audience for the school district is all kids and the audience for the Sitka Sound Science Center is huge. Also SHS did not list alternative funding on the application. Sitka Sound Science Center has substantial other funding. Thad believes both should be cut slightly. Thad proposes to keep the smallest 2 requests intact and fund them 100%.

John commented that the audience is too small for the lecture series. He wants to give both school district applicants full funding. The lecture series will go on without money from the trust and it just doesn't score as high on the rubric. He believes the cut should be bigger for the Sitka Sound Science Center.

Ward commented that the trust is actually designed to support SHS and they should get full funding. He thinks that the Sitka Sound Science Center is double dipping with 2 requests to the trust.

Thad additionally comments that there seems to be a part about the availability of other funding missing from their applications. The Sitka Sound Science Center doesn't have a guaranteed budget like SHS does and he wants to give the Sitka Sound Science Center a slight edge.

John withdraws his suggestion to cut the lecture series, but he does agree to leave the 2 small requests alone and fund them 100%.

Steve said the data from SHS is misleading in regards to how many students are taking science classes because it is a graduation requirement. He thinks the Sitka Sound Science Center is above and beyond what science education should be like in the schools and the quality of this program will increase growth in science and this type of program will change the paradigm for science in the US.

John disagrees and says the data from SHS shows that while the student body population is decreasing, the number of kids taking science classes is still rising because they are able to offer broader programs that attract more kids. He was disappointed by the SHS presentation 2 years ago, but feels like the last 2 years have been much more impressive.

7:15 Steve moves to accept the 2 smaller proposals (\$1800 KGH Starlab and \$2500 Natural History Lecture series). Stan seconds, all approve.

7:20 Steve moves to fund the other two proportionately (SHS \$22,700 and Sitka Sound Science Center \$23,000) Stan seconds, all approve.

Column B – arts and culture

Steve feels strongly about not funding the Girl Scouts because they are an Anchorage Organization and it sets bad precedent to fund organizations outside of Sitka.

Thad suggests that local people need to get involved and for now they should zero out their funding request.

John wants to look at organizations that cannot exist without funding. Brave Heart is important because no one else in Sitka performs hospice care.

Steve says that another strong point for Brave Heart is they have a plan and a vision to be self-perpetuating which makes them deserving of the money.

John would like to fund Sitka Summer Music Festival and Fine Arts Camp, they are both worthwhile and bring dollars into Sitka.

Nick advocates cutting the preschool request.

John wants the state to fund rural preschool education, but he is a big supporter of preschool education he believes the kids getting the money to attend preschool are the kids who need it the most.

Ward would also like to zero out the preschool request.

John reads from the trust: “to promote cultural programs, community betterment and offer educational assistance for people who cannot afford it” – the preschool should get funding.

The board decides they want to fully fund a scholarship for the Spanish program in the amount of \$2180 and \$9000 to Brave Heart.

John says the Jazz and the Musical festivals bring the most money to town, Steve agrees they have a strong economic impact. Nick would like to fully fund the Jazz Festival.

7:50 John would like to zero out the request for the Island Institute because it has the least impact on students. He would also like to zero out SAIL because he thinks it has the least amount of community impact.

Thad would like to give SAIL 50% of what they asked for because it is worthy and important.

Ward says that both of those proposals are for services that no one else provides in Sitka and they should be considered.

Stan has a personal affinity to the SAIL program, says there are lots of unpaid volunteers and very few paid staff members that keep SAIL running.

Thad says that though he knows averaging the requests out isn't popular, they need to start somewhere. He thinks the Island Institute is a prestigious program and will be able to use any of the money they get. Steve asks Carolyn if they will benefit from just a portion of what they have requested (who is in the audience) and she says they will be able to get whatever money they receive from the Trust matched by a grant.

Thad says that the Music Festival has a 170,000 budget and brings a lot of people here in the summer, as does Jazz Fest.

8:25 He moves to approve the following amounts for the Cultural Side of the application:

	Requested		Awarded
Sitka Jazz Festival	\$8,917		\$7,500
3 to 5 Preschool	\$10,000		\$5,320
Spanish Club	\$2,180		\$2,180
Greater Sitka Arts Council	\$2,370		\$2,000
The Island Institute	\$5,850		\$2,000
SAIL	\$10,000		\$5,000
Sitka Summer Music Festival	\$12,000		\$9,000
Braveheart	\$10,000		\$8,000
Girl Scouts	\$3,300	-	\$0
Sitka Fine Arts Camp	\$14,500		\$11,000

The caveat is that if there is more money available then the extra funds will be split amongst the last 3 groups to receive money, up to \$3000. If there is more than \$3000 available, the trust will have a new meeting to allocate the money. Stan seconds this proposal and all approve.

8:30 – John has been working on a rubric for the other side of the trust. He leads everyone through his ideas and would like everyone to look it over and bring back comments to the January meeting.

The next meeting of the trust will be **January 14th, 2014 at 7 PM in the SHS Library.**

8:50 meeting adjourned.