Minutes - Solar Oregon board meeting – May 20, 2013

Attending:

- Ron McDowell
- Doug Boleyn
- Gordy Molitor
- Bruce Barney
- Claire Carlson, Staff
- Corey Omey
- Linda Barnes
- Todd Gregory
- Ellen Crivella

Absent:

- Allan Scott,
- Robert Cross
- David Petersen

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Guests:

- Nay Shayan of PGE,
- Andrea Jacobs of City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability,
- Zach Henkin (recent Marylhurst MBA) and formerly Sunlight Solar in Portland (Marketing) and Oregon City development committee
- Norma Doulin – marketing background for consultants – customers are architects, engineers, and people in the energy fields. Been involved in Solar for a long time.
- Chris Robertson, Chris Robertson & Associates – presenting VISOR for the Board.

Mac started the meeting at 5:15 PM

A. Scott has resigned the board due to personal time constraints. This will leave four open board seats (Kacia, Scott and 2 previously open positions)
B. Introductions of Board and guests.
C. Financial Report from Gordy on Ops Committee: Gordy presented new format for reporting to the board. We discussed the ExCom's plan to incorporate 'RESERVES' into the reporting. Reserves will be isolated from ordinary cash to minimize opportunities to spend them. Claire commented on budget vs. where

we are now….K-12 funding has been difficult due to Foundations being very tight for funds and needing to make cutbacks. Claire introduced the Sunshot grant program that S.O. has applied for – due to hear in June for $80k income, $20k match for volunteer value, other program value. This could become a multi-year grant. We are still talking to ETO about adding new funding; some issues with single source contracts have impacted our expansion plans for ETO. Accounts Receivable is not bad – about $10k now after ODOE paid up. Some memberships are overdue, but not bad compared to normal. Gordy mentioned new bookkeeper, shes working out well, quick learner, good with Quickbooks, about 10-15 hours per week. Everyone liked the new reporting formats.

D. Corey requested having screen displays of the financials in a PPT format to save paper.

E. Chris presented VISOR to us. Chris will get Claire a copy of the PPT. We had an interesting discussion of land use issues and other subjects of interest following the presentation.

F. Claire and Andrea discussed SW Community Center – a Portland Parks site, continuation of past experiment to do community solar. Grant to crowd fund an array construction has been awarded. "Paying it forward" is theme of marketing, community fund will help the next one. No return can be promised, but donations will come back at 0 interest if you contribute a large enough amount. 10kW system will be the initial system size. S.O. role will be outreach and education for volunteers to teach how to teach others.

G. PGE Proposal: Claire said it is confidential but we have proposed to them. Claire summarized the goals of the proposal. Nay mentioned Thor has left PGE.

H. Sunshot grant mentioned again. S.O. will be a coordinator if it comes through. We might have issues because the ODOE solar person (Terrence Meyer) left.

I. Claire discussed Solar Now. We rec'd three applications from RFP for communities to host the event: Coos Bay, Florence and Garibaldi. Solar Now committee will select by the 30th. Once decision is made, the project will really kick off and be active. Solar Now will be 9/26, 27, 28.

J. Todd mentioned bill 2080? in the state legislature, it's on land use and passed the legislature. Law on property tax abatement – in enterprise zone if you invest $5 million, you can get property tax abatement without employees. HB2893 passed, 19 to 10, it's a modest FIT extension, 5 to 100 kW sizing, also PUC told to study for solar resource value, a 2 year process by the PUC. S.O. should have a role in the process per Claire.

K. K12 – this is Morgan's last week in the classroom. Morgan will be working on documenting the successes of our program to help find more funding. We are

way oversubscribed, with another year of classrooms waiting for us. Need to work on Marketing!

L. Lake County final report out. Everyone liked the report, but maybe it should have had more pictures (especially the trailer).
M. Morgan will have to have a different salary if she does work for S.O. other than K-12.
N. Table a decision about resource allocation for the Development Committee. In August there is a gap in workload, and there are some ideas about how to use the gap for a new event. We may need to concentrate on Solar Now in this period.
O. Corey discussed solar wine tour. Thanks to Linda and others for helping. This is the First Annual event; there are 3 or 4 wineries interested in the event for next year. Because the event wasn't filled, we didn't get the performance we wanted, but profit was still $2800 or so. Corey enjoyed the process very much.
P. Mac talked about Claire's anniversary – a Stoller winery bag and wine bottle. Commendations to Claire for doing a great job in the last two years! Mac will be providing Claire a review soon, and he has a lot of feedback from the Board. Ex Comm is looking at compensation for Claire.
Q. Mac mentioned Earth Share Oregon – he is coming off the board, Markus will be on the board in his stead.
R. Marketing Committee – not much to mention per Mac. We need help with Marketing, hence the emphasis on new Board members with Marketing experience.
S. Linda asked about strategic plan – on 'slow' status due to the vendor's donation of the plan.
T. Mac mentioned the Pakistan visitor to Portland to look at 'green' non-profits. The State department is interested in having someone go to Pakistan. Mac is asking anyone interested in going to see him.
U. Gordy mentioned the Carbon Tax – would the board be interested in endorsing a proposal put forth by the Citizens Climate Lobby – we would sign a letter. Gordy said he will send out the proposal. (Working toward a revenue neutral carbon tax). Action at the next board meeting will be great.
V. Mac discussed green energy RPS requirements and the effort that is underway to change the requirements for grandfathering old hydro. Umitilla utilities are fighting for this to avoid RPS requirements driven by their new load from data centers.
W. Nay and Zack and Norma asked questions about being a board member.
X. Claire mentioned there are 4 open board memberships.
Y. Bruce mentioned Solar Drinks was a success last week at PSU solar labs.
Z. Adjourned at 8:08.