



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes January 07, 2010

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Members Present: Dave Foster, Andrew Elliott, Gwendolyn Harris, Kristen Curtis, Sean Brown, Joe Meyers, Stephen Singer, Aaron Truchil.

Board Positions

Sean Brown stated that it would be better to take time figuring out CamConnect board positions than to move quickly. Having the word “democratize” in our mission statement should translate to transparent and open elections. Joe Meyers suggested reaching out to Bill and Jeff (not present) for guidance on the process and timing.

Orientation Packet

Stephen Singer passed out a board member orientation packet and discussed CamConnect’s marketing history. CamConnect’s previous approach involved a brochure which quickly became outdated. Instead of retooling that method, Stephen suggested we moving to a folder that could be easily updated when new services and reports are available.

Data Fair

Stephen announced February 26th as the final date for the Data Fair. Wendell Pritchett agreed to serve as this year’s annual speaker. The next step is to begin recruiting presenters, where Stephen suggested beginning with groups who have presented at past data fairs. The title has yet to be established and Stephen is waiting to communicate with Wendell for suggestions or verifying that CC can use its own title. Sean noted that the onus is on CamConnect to come up with a title and that Wendell will be able to draft a speech around CC’s topic. Sean proposed the title “Smarter, Faster, Better, Stronger: The Use of Data in Camden’s Recovery”.

Joe suggested that a small group of board members working exclusively on Data Fair issues be created. He also reiterated that getting things out regularly – a constant stream of communication – is important for having large groups show up to the event. Joe suggested that himself, Sean, and Aaron form a small committee and begin reaching out to other members to see if they want to volunteer.

Sean brought up the idea of having a promotional item for the data fair with CamConnect’s logo. Stephen discussed looking into USB drives with logos that could be pre-loaded with CC documents – something other than a stack of papers to spread our work. Aaron will be continuing to investigate possible gifts.

Dave Foster suggested that CC work to clearly define and explain the data fair in the process of spreading the word. Stephen noted from his experience planning last year’s data fair that the event is

about networking and allowing people who use data in their day-to-day work to meet and discuss their efforts. Joe Meyers expanded by suggesting the data fair is an opportunity to see how other organizations use data in innovate ways. Members agreed that there is a clear need to integrate CC into the data fair process and demonstrate how CC can help other organizations with their technical capacities – something that has lacked in previous events.

Dave Foster suggested that CamConnect have a table at GCP's January 26th event. As CamConnect played a large role in their State of Camden report, the event will also serve as a celebration of CC's work. GCP is also open to finding other ways for CC to participate in the event. Stephen proposed a poster with examples of CC's work that could be reused for the data fair.

Executive Update

Eds & Meds

Stephen discussed his meeting with the Eds & Meds committee to begin developing and managing their databases. He noted the importance of collecting all information – the good, the bad, and the ugly. While the data will serve as a promotional piece for the task force, it is CamConnect's obligation to ensure that all the information is in front of the committee. Dave perceived great value in CC demonstrating its capabilities of managing internal data. Stephen also noted that working with Eds & Meds would be a way to insert ourselves in the process and have increased access to unavailable connections.

Executive Update

Sean suggested changes to the update including having the budgetary components next to each item as well as a time estimation. Gwendy proposed labeling projects as ad hoc or long commitment. Sean brought up that CamConnect typically has a list of priorities for the year and that Jeff is usually involved in that process. Stephen proposed having a calendar displaying how full CC is with work and what work is revenue generating.

Budget Report

Stephen discussed Dresdner's interest in sponsoring a budget report on the available data (whereas Coopers Ferry wants budget report after 2010 budget is released). Gwendy asked for clarification as to what exactly the budget report included. Stephen responded that the past reports have included some analysis of Camden's structural deficiencies as well as a piece on the city's tax base.

Crime Stats

Sean reminded Stephen to keep working on Lydia Perez as a police department contact. He also noted that it is important for CC to get adult vs. juvenile crime figures.

Camden Matters

Sean reiterated the importance of Camden Matters and CC's need to figure out a way to find funding/manpower to get it up and running. Stephen noted that funding for time would be the critical component. To do it right would require a significant staff commitment. Dave suggested finding students from Rutgers who could work on the labor intensive aspects once the platform component was completed. Gwendy stated that another crucial factor is who would monitor content and play "traffic cop". Stephen suggested the next steps would be expanding upon the Knight

Foundation proposal to include the community piece. Sean believed he could find student interns to assist in the process. Gwendy also proposed the idea of establishing a slimmed down version in the meanwhile to get the ball rolling. Dave reiterated the value of CC getting out in front of the information.

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