

**Meeting Summary
Executive Committee
September 13, 2016, 5:30 p.m.**

Committee Members: John Young, Barbara Foushee

Other Board Members: Yinka Ayankoya

Staff: None

Public: None

The Executive Committee discussed:

1. Options for a board development and team building events/programs (in follow up to the suggestion from the board's June 2016 self-assessment)
2. Generally, how Executive Committee members envision supporting the board this fiscal year

Board development and team building

The meeting participants considered several types of activities or events that might meet the objectives of building greater team cohesiveness and/or expanding the board's contextual knowledge and collective insight on topics relevant to its work.

The participants agreed to seek the full board's input on moving forward with one or potentially all of these ideas during the course of the fiscal year:

1. A community service activity, such as watershed cleanup (Jordan Lake, Bolin Creek, etc.), reading at elementary school, litter pick-up in Carrboro, or something tied to the Inter-Faith Council for Social Services
2. A creative/artistic pursuit, such as a private painting session at Wine and Design (bring our own beverages, possibly alcohol free, at Glen Lennox shopping center), a class at private art studio with art instructor, or pottery class at the Carrboro Arts Center
3. A well-informed guest speaker from another utility

The participants briefly discussed the attractiveness of a "ropes course" experience, but did not think this would be as appropriate as other choices.

In terms of community service activities, the participants recommend that the board consider in particular an activity tied to OWASA's mission, such as watershed cleanup. The participants also recommend that the board avoid activities tied to a particular faith (such as Habitat for Humanity, an ecumenical Christian organization).

With board member Yinka Ayankoya in attendance, the participants discussed her recent orientation experience. Overall, orientation practices seem effective. However, the participants thought the board could consider proactively assigning mentor(s) to new board members for each major new topic (for example, Mountains-to-Sea Trail) as topics unfold during the first year. Under this concept, the mentor(s) would provide an unbiased history of all information and alternatives on this topic that the board has previously reviewed or discussed. The mentors could be board members and/or staff members. The participants, noting the undesirable potential for a mentor to bias the new board member, wish to express the importance of neutrality in these mentor relationships (if set up by the board). Participants also recognized that a new board member could proactively seek out topic-specific context from fellow board members and staff members, who would almost certainly be willing to provide it.

How Executive Committee members envision supporting the board this fiscal year

The participants did not identify any major, near-term changes that they would want the Executive Committee to implement to improve board procedures and support.

If a motion and vote is required to continue meetings past 10:00 PM, the participants recommend that we more carefully observe this procedure, perhaps assigning time-keeping responsibility to one of the board members.

The participants observe that some aspects of the board's review of the work schedule, which occurs at the end of monthly work sessions, can get tedious and challenging (to arrive at consensus) because energy and focus are at their lowest points. The participants seek feedback on whether board members would like to delegate more elements of this agenda item to the Executive Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 PM.

Prepared by:
John Young