Minutes

Board Meeting, Zoom

August 24, 2026

Present: Tom Schaefer, Chris Moore, Brad Schrick, Gil Sharp, Jill Burnette, Lisa Neuburger, Nate Reagan, Megan Davis

Not Present: Leslie Wetherell, Brandon Buel

1. **Call to order**
2. **Approval of minutes of July 20, 2026**- The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Amendments included correcting the meeting date to July 24, 2026, and adding $25,000 from the Schaefer Gift Fund to the grant list, bringing the total granted amount to $149,925. Mary will update the attached PDF to reflect the amendments.
3. **Director Report**

a. Families in the Park Tucker reported on the Families in the Park event, where he promoted community giving and volunteerism. Two additional events are upcoming, with one having been postponed due to smoke.

b. Stegner Artist Fund The Foundation received a $10,000 donation to the Stegner Artist Fund.

c. Potential New Fund Donation Program The Board discussed a potential new fund program with a minimum threshold of approximately $250,000–$500,000. The program would allow the Foundation to test working with a trusted financial manager and leverage existing relationships. Management fees charged by both the financial manager and the Foundation would be separate. The group agreed to continue developing the concept with Brandon as a potential test case.

d. Outside Financial Management Agreement The Foundation is working on an outside financial management agreement related to two inherited IRAs valued at approximately $540,000. The Board discussed the potential benefits of allowing local financial advisors to continue managing donated assets. Further discussion with the Finance Committee is needed.

e. Foundant The Foundant software discussion was postponed.

f. Morrow Event The Morrow event was postponed and will be moved to the spring.

g. Board Actions and Scheduling The Board discussed setting dates for strategic planning and filling the vacant board seat, with consideration given to finding a candidate from the Skamania area.

The Board also discussed meeting attendance and scheduling conflicts, particularly related to Leslie's school schedule. Options included moving meetings to 4:00–4:30 PM and establishing a minimum board

attendance requirement. Tucker will follow up with members regarding whether a change in meeting time would improve attendance.

h. Potential Endowment Funds Tom discussed potential charitable contributions and the possibility of establishing or growing endowment funds, including the Adopt-A-Dog fund. The Board discussed whether Adopt-A-Dog board members could participate or match contributions.

4. Financial Report

Mary reported that the Foundation currently has approximately $11.2 million in assets.

Mary discussed the transition to accrual-based accounting and the importance of establishing stronger internal controls and financial redundancies in preparation for a potential audit within the next three to five years. The Foundation, which is approximately 26 years old, has not previously undergone an audit.

Mary also presented a sample QuickBooks Online fund summary for the James A. Titus School Fund as preparation for a future transition to Foundant.

Jill offered to share an audit overview document from a Portland accounting firm that previously reviewed similar processes.

5. Grant Approvals

The Board approved $69,750 in grants, including $50,000 in Leo scholarship renewals and funding for the Monument Senior Center Lunch Program.

The Board also discussed the Foundation's updated approach to PayPal and bank transfer fees. These fees will now be paid by the organization rather than deducted from donor contributions, allowing the full donation amount to reach the designated fund.

6. Endowment Discussions

Tom discussed plans for additional charitable contributions, including a potential $1 million contribution to the Adopt-A-Dog endowment and an additional $1 million contribution to another community foundation. The Board discussed provisions for remaining funds if an organization were to cease operations. Tom and Tucker will continue working on the language and structure of the proposed endowment.

7. Board Mission Moments- Skipped due to time.

Next meeting: September 21, 2026 (rescheduled to September 28, 2026)

Executive Director Report

Gorge Community Foundation Board Meeting

Date: August 24, 2026 @ 12PM | **Prepared by:** Tucker Szymkowicz

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Highlights Since Last Board Meeting

- Brief summary of major accomplishments and key developments.
    - Families in the Park - 2 more concerts. Would love a fund holder or board member to say a few words.
    - Steighner Artists Fund - $10k donation received
    - Potential new fund - Carolyn Morrison - Stock transfer
    - Branden Two IRA's gifted to GCF as primary beneficiary. Total = $540k - Board needs to determine the best use of these funds as they are unrestricted. Mary and Tucker suggest that these funds be added to Lynn's Fund.
- Significant opportunities or challenges.
    - **Tom's sister's Foundation update -** Tom
    - **Foundant** - Will restart conversations with Foundant and Tom
    - **Systems Transition (Ongoing)** Mary has made tremendous progress on updating Lynn's systems however the organization as a whole needs to undergo an overhaul of our operating systems and this is time consuming work. We have uploaded some of the fund information to GDrive but need to transfer all of it from Lynn's files and my Gdrive account.
    - **Outside Financial Management Agreement -** Agreement is being edited by Financial Team but the intention/goals behind it is supported by the Finance Team members.
    - **Moro Event** - Fall 2026 postponed to Spring
- Important board actions requested.
    - Settle on Board Strategic Plan Dates for Fall 2026
    - Active Board Development - Replace Lynn's Board Seat and 2 more members?
    - Meeting day/time? Leslie can never make our calls due to school and Branden has frequent conflicts, is there a better option?
    - Review/Edit Board Membership Expectations and Onboarding Process - Committee or Assignment?
    - Request for introductions to new potential board members or fund holders.

GRANTS
August 24, 2026

FUND	GRANTEE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT	Exempt	Notes:
History Museum Endowment Fund	History Museum of HR	general	$2,900.00	yes	Grant Acceptance Form
Alice Downing	Hood River Co Commission on Children and Families	general	$2,500.00	yes	Grant Acceptance Form
CG Master Gardeners	Central Gorge Master Gardeners	general	$8,500.00	yes	Grant Acceptance Form
Lyle Community Schools	Lyle Community Schools	general	$3,600.00	yes	Grant Acceptance Form
Schaefer Gift Fund	Araceli Lopez	2023 LEOS Scholarship Renewal	$10,000.00	yes	Email Committee Request
Schaefer Gift Fund	Alison Doss	2023 LEOS Scholarship Renewal	$3,000.00	yes	Email Committee Request
Schaefer Gift Fund	Abby Tomlinson	2023 LEOS Scholarship Renewal	$1,000.00	yes	Email Committee Request
Schaefer Gift Fund	Areli Lica	2023 LEOS Scholarship Renewal	$7,500.00	yes	Email Committee Request
Schaefer Gift Fund	Lissette Beltran Juarez	2024 LEOS Scholarship Renewal	$5,000.00	yes	Email Committee Request
Schaefer Gift Fund	Leslie Barron Avolos	2024 LEOS Scholarship Renewal	$10,000.00	yes	Email Committee Request
Schaefer Gift Fund	Zane Peterson	2025 LEOS Scholarship Renewal	$1,500.00	yes	Email Committee Request
Schaefer Gift Fund	Julia Williams	2025 LEOS Scholarship Renewal	$2,000.00	yes	Email Committee Request
Schaefer Gift Fund	Kendra Thurner	2025 LEOS Scholarship Renewal	$5,000.00	yes	Email Committee Request
Schaefer Gift Fund	Mackenzie Thurner	2025 LEOS Scholarship Renewal	$5,000.00	yes	Email Committee Request
Hosiosky Gift Fund	Monument Senior Center	biodegradable take-out food packaging	$250.00	yes	Email DA Request
Hosiosky Gift Fund	Monument Senior Center	Operating Costs for Senior Center Lunch program	$1,000.00	yes	Email DA Request
Hosiosky Gift Fund	Monument Senior Center	Operating Costs for Senior Center Lunch program	$1,000.00	yes	added during meeting
TOTAL			**$69,750.00**		
Ops Expenses for Review:					
Operations-Sponsorship	HR County Education Foundation	Sponsorship - Kaleidoscope	$500.00	yes	Email Request to Tucker
Upcoming					
Schaefer Gift Fund	Healthy Living Community	general	TBD		
Salvador Grants	TBD		TBD		