

SONOMA VALLEY FUND

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 13, 2015

LOCATION: 360 SECOND STREET EAST

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 pm by President Rymer

**A quorum was present: Blattner, Collins, Grandy, Hughes, Rymer, Van Camp,
Ex officio: Ruelas**

Excused Absence: Fulton

The Minutes of the June 18, 2015 were approved as circulated.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE: Development Committee Chair Grandy provided an update on plans for the Board to hold gatherings in the fall with prospects identified by board members whom they believe should be informed of the work of the Sonoma Valley Fund, with the goal of eventually having them be financial supporters of the Fund as well as legacy donors to community non-profits. Prospects have been divided into small groups with individual Board members responsible for holding gatherings in their homes where information/cultivation sessions will be held. Given the busy fall season, it is anticipated that most of these will now take place early in the New Year.

GRANTS COMMITTEE: Grants Committee Chair Hughes informed the Executive Committee of the RFP sent to community non-profits announcing the SVF Capacity Building Grants Program to be focused on Valley organizations whose activities include a community wellness component, broadly defined. Those funded will receive initial grants of \$5000 to enable them to participate in a cohort of grantees to build their individual organization's capacity and effectiveness. It is anticipated that first-year grantees will be eligible for additional funding in subsequent years based on their successful participation and demonstrated increased capacity in the inaugural year. Executive Committee members expressed support and enthusiasm for the thorough planning and creative group learning approach envisioned in the initial grants program.

NOMINATIONS AND GOVERNANCE UPDATE: Governance Committee Co-Chair Van Camp reviewed preliminary candidates to fill anticipated Board vacancies in the coming year. The Executive Committee discussed Board needs and candidates' skills and attributes. Reports were made on conversations with prospects to date and assignments were confirmed for additional contacts.

Extensive discussion followed on the issue of leadership succession planning for the Board. President Rymer expressed concern that there was no clear pathway for Board President succession at the present time and that the Governance Committee and the Board as a whole needed to address this important issue. President Rymer indicated that he would be willing to serve as President for an additional and final year if there were a Vice President or Co-President who agreed to assume the Presidency in January of 2017. There followed a far-ranging discussion of various models of Board leadership that might be considered, including the concept of a Co-Presidency with clear responsibilities delineated and very specific responsibilities for the Board as a whole. It was agreed to develop this concept further and to bring it to the full Board at its September meeting for discussion and possible adoption. There remained collective concern that no candidate for the position of Co-President to serve in 2016 with Co-President Rymer was yet to emerge.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dennis Collins
Secretary**