



Advancement Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 9, 2026
9:30 – 11:00 AM
Via Zoom

Present: Brian Mullen; Joel Rainville; Gabrielle Rohde; Kristine Smyth

Staff: Andree Aronson; Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema

Excused Absence: Marjie Blevins; Sandy Vargas

The Accola Advancement Committee meeting convened on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Intention: Led by Joel.

DEI Statement: Joel read the DEI Statement.

Minutes: The June minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, Kris moved to approve and Brian seconded. All present members voted to approve the minutes.

Advancement Director's Remarks/Updates

Matt provided committee members with an update on the recent fire at the Sarah's property. This fire was quickly contained. The committee discussed the cause of the fire and facilities upkeep.

Financials: Andree reported strong fundraising results, with grants exceeding budgeted expectations, unrestricted donations exceeding last year's total by nearly \$200,000, and overall revenue at 81% of the FY goal. She emphasized that the finance department is still reconciling money for FY26, so these numbers will change. Grants will be a future area of growth. The new Directors will bring in new partnerships and ideas for this area as well. Estate gifts and donor retention/new donors were reviewed.

25/26 KPI's: Andree reported that one goal was to reach 20 Impact Circle pledges. To date, 22 have been received and an additional 6 pledges (not 5-year) have been promised in various amounts. Advancement had a goal of increasing the volunteer roster to 50. This has been achieved with 76 volunteers.

Andree reviewed various partnerships with Accola.

26/27 Integrated Fund Development Plan: The Integrated Fund Development Plan was reviewed. This plan will be updated with new goals, etc. Funding sources and strategies will move forward in FY27. Board and staff roles were reviewed, as well as engagement strategies. The committee discussed the expectations on Board members to help with fundraising. This document is on the Board Portal.

Board Portal/New Website: It was reported that the new website will launch soon. The Board Portal is being overhauled. The Donate and Planned Giving sections have also been updated. Andree reviewed the new Board Portal sections, noting that everything will be easy to find.

26/27 Mar/Com & Events Calendar: Andree and Sam have organized an activities calendar for FY27. This includes open houses and events. Monthly themes will be added in as well.

Other Business

FY27 Committee Goals/BOD Goals: Andree reported that there will be an emphasis on Board commitments this fiscal year. The Advancement Committee will play a role in this. She would like Board members to participate in at least 1 fundraiser and to bring in at least 2 new people to Accola. She also encouraged members to increase social media sharing and to consider matching gifts as a way to increase donor participation.

Adjourn: The committee adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lacy Sietsema, Accola