Boosting Board Productivity: Good Governance Makes Board Members Lives Easier

Jennifer Beyer,
Community Development Officer

Governance is Difficult

"There is such a hunger in the nonprofit sector for help wrangling the Board of directors. Because the Board is a disparate group of volunteers, it can often seem impossible to get their attention, let along get them all pointing in the same, effective direction. … But if you can get your Board members all on the same page, it can transform your nonprofit." – socialvelocity.com

What Do We Know About Governance in General?

- There is no single definition

- There is no 'one best practice' for how to govern

- There is a correlation between good governance and successful organizations

What Do We Know About Good Governance?

That there are three tightly connected pieces of it:

- Fiduciary

- Strategic

- Generative

Evaluation

- Very few Boards do it but we all should.

- Don't be intimidated by the idea

  - we engage in evaluation practices in our daily lives
  - it can be simple and straightforward to implement

Board Productivity in General

- "Why have a meeting when you can have a party?" – Jim Diers

- Utilize people's unique talents, interests, hobbies

- Put some good thought into preparing your party/meeting agenda and then stick to the plan

- Be thoughtful about how you divvy up work

Brainstorm

When do you find your Board struggles most with productivity?

- Timing? (of day, year, etc.)

- Situation?

What are the common factors between these situations?

What are some ways we could address these issues? Mitigate these challenges?

Other Resources

- Alberta Culture Board Development Program

  www.culture.alberta.ca/bdp

- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

  www.agriculture.alberta.ca/boardgovernance

- Strive!

  http://www.strive.com/

- Volunteer Alberta

  www.volunteeralberta.ab.ca/varc

Thank you!

Jennifer Beyer
Community Development Officer, Alberta Culture
780-915-1762
Jennifer.Beyer@gov.ab.ca
www.culture.alberta.ca/communitydevelopment