MINUTES – NPC FRIENDS & FAMILY BOARD MEETING

Empowering students and promoting lifelong learning through advocacy, volunteerism, fund raising, and awarding scholarships

Monday, February 9, 2026 – 3:45 p.m.- 5:15 p.m. – Show Low/White Mountain Campus – Goldwater Conference Room with WebEx option

I. **Call to Order – Terry called the meeting to order at 3:50 p.m., February 9, 2026.**

II. **Roll Call and Introductions – Present included Terry Shove** (President; Apache County Rep); **David Wright** (Vice-President; Holbrook – Painted Desert Campus Rep); **Claude Endfield** (Whiteriver Center Rep); **Tonya Thacker** (Remote - Secretary – Kayenta Center Rep); **Jesse Reeck** (Director of NPCFF); **Karen Zimmerman** (Development Coordinator, NPCFF); **Mark Vest** (Remote-Show Low Rep– White Mountain Campus Rep); **Pat Ceballos** (Remote-Winslow-Little Colorado Campus Rep); **Cara Dukepoo,** arrived 4:12 p.m. (Remote-Hopi Center Rep); **Wendy McVicker,** arrived 4:12 p.m. (Remote - Treasurer; Snowflake/Taylor-Silver Creek Campus Rep)

III. **Action Item: Approval of the Minutes of the January 12, 2026 meeting:** (Attachment) **David made a motion to approve the minutes, as presented; Claude seconded the motion.** No discussion. **All voted in favor; no abstentions.**

IV. **Action Item: Approval of Financial Reports for January, 2026 – Executive Director Jesse Reeck:** (Balance Sheet, Balance Sheet Comparison, & Transaction Detail by Account – January 2026 – Attachments) **Claude made a motion to accept the report; David seconded the motion. Discussion:** Jesse reported Wendy's feedback on the report. She noted the $73,000 unrestricted donation that was included in the Holiday Giving report and the Wix domain charge that she was unable to get refunded. Betsy's old Visa card is confirmed closed now. January was a strong month for growth on investments after a slower November and December. Fear and Greed index is neutral. **All voted in favor; no abstentions.**

V. **Old Business**

A. Director's Report – Jesse Reeck Jesse provided information on the following topics:

a. **Updates on SP26 Awards: AndyVon Transportation Grant & CASO Student Scholarship:** About half of the AVTG funds have been disbursed for this semester and CASO Student Scholarship application closes March 1st.

b. **Update on AwardSpring Implementation:** The application is set to launch on March 1st. Jesse & Karen have been working on that set up and on planning communication and roll-out to students and support staff. The essay has been replaced by 4 short answer questions. Reviewers will also conduct their review from the AwardSpring platform. The Board expressed support for the change as long as student explanations of resourcefulness and financial need were still expected as part of the responses.

c. **Update on preparations for AZ Gives Day 2026: Tuesday, April 7, 2026:** Jesse & Karen have been working with Marketing on getting the websites updated for AZ Gives & Pedal the Petrified. Registration for PTP 2026 will open February 18, 2026.

B. **Discussion: Follow-Up on Gala & MOU Discussions with NPC** Jesse reported that she and the previous Gala committee met with Dr. Lawson and expressed concern about the direction of the gala, presented a few options for alternative events, and invited Dr. Lawson to come meet the NPCFF Board. Dr. Lawson decided to move the gala planning to an external consultant rather than continuing discussions with Jesse & the committee. He was unable to make Jesse's meeting with him to discuss the MOU.

C. **Action Item: Approval of revised NPCFF-NPC MOU** (Attachment) Discussion carried over from the previous item. Given that Maderia Ellison had already reviewed the changes requested by the Board, Jesse felt that the Board could approve the MOU and she will take it back to Dr. Lawson. Tonya voiced that she expected he would approve it. **David made a motion to approve the MOU as amended, including the "Foundation Board" in 7.3.1; Mark seconded**. Mark asked before the vote if moving forward would create any issues. Jesse will bring any additional changes Dr. Lawson would like back to the Board. She hopes to build a good working relationships with the President. David agreed that having Ms. Ellison review the MOU will be helpful. **All voted in favor; no abstentions.**

VI. New Business

A. **Discussion: 2026 Board Retreat (location, date, topics)** Terry would like to go to Hopi, all in a van, since we haven't been in many years and since many board members have been on the board. Tonya recommended the café at Keams Canyon. Jesse will send a doodle poll to see of a possible date the last week of May or the first week of June.

B. **Discussion: Endowment Spending Policy** (Attachment) Jesse presented draft language for an Endowment Spending Policy with a question about the timing of the assessment of the fund, budgeting based on the assessment, and awarding Fall scholarships. The final language will be added to the current Financial Management Policy. Jesse & Wendy decided on a spending rate of 4% to be assessed on the fund at the 1st of the calendar year. The assessed amount could then be applied to the Board's choice from 3 scholarship options presented by the executive director at a later meeting. The timing is difficult because Fall scholarships for the next year are awarded on the previous year's budget.

Terry encouraged approving the new amount in February so awards could be ready for the March-April application cycle and just amending the budget at that time. Jesse asked if it is ok to plan for a budget amendment on an annual basis. Terry, Tonya, and Wendy said that it is standard and accepted practice to revisit budgets based on updated information. Given that it is already February, Claude wondered about holding off until next year to implement the policy. Terry encouraged moving forward on a condensed timeline now in order to put these funds into use for students. Accordingly, Jesse will finalize the draft language and complete the Endowment assessment and preparation of 3 scholarship options to be approved in March.

C. **Action Item: Approval of Eagle Club Ms. Native NPC Mini Grant Proposal – Shandiin Deputee** (Attachment): Shandiin, faculty & Eagle Club advisor, shared a presentation about Ms. Native American NPC and Royalty 25-26. NPCFF provided scholarships for Winner and Runner up for 2025 Pageant, and Shandiin's presentation reviewed the students' activities this year. Terry asked if the winners could attend one of our board meetings, even remotely. Shandiin is happy to try to coordinate that. Claude asked if they have a relationship with the counselors at the high schools. Shandiin isn't exactly sure, but she knows they do make school visits. Mark asked about the original ask and plan. Shandiin approached the first time with the possibility of coming back to make it a permanent scholarship, but they were unsure if they were going to have any participants. Mark asked if the College would pay. Shandiin says they fundraise for the pageant in general, and that they are working to budget for winners' travel as representatives for NPC. They had 3 participants in last year's competition, with $1000/semester and $500/semester. The request is for this year, with a consideration of making it a permanent award in the future. Pat said she thinks it should be approved annually. Terry voiced her support.

   Mark moved to approve the mini-grant for $3,000 for one year, with the condition that we reconsider next year based on student participation and if this is a good return on investment for the Foundation. David seconded. Additional discussion: Claude requested royalty record how many community members they interact with. Shandiin appreciated the suggestions and will work with her committee to find a way to record that impact. David noted that it's a great way to increase exposure. Claude recommended more publicity in the Apache Scout and other tribal newspapers. **All in favor. No abstentions. Passed.**

D. **Discussion: Board Training on AwardSpring student experience** Jesse provided a walk through of the student experience with the AwardSpring application. Claude really likes more detail on family situation in the application, so Jesse & Karen will revise the language of the short answer questions to encourage those sorts of responses. Terry & Claude both like being able to view FAFSA Submission Summaries and student transcripts when reviewing applications; Jesse will make sure those are visible. Claude was concerned about people who aren't as digitally literate navigating the application. Jesse will make sure the front office staff and librarians are included in the roll out to know how to support students.

VII. **Next Meeting:–** March 16, 2026, 3:45 p.m. at Holbrook/PDC

IX. **Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.