Call to order, roll call: President Leigh Morrell called the meeting to order at 8:04 pm EST

Present: Laura Armstrong, Doug Eichert, Ray Grosshans, Scott Kretschmer, Leigh Morrell, Victor Plitt, Linda Tanner, Bob Valentine, John Williams, Tom Owens

Absent: Eddie Rainey, Jim Archambault

Others in attendance: Jerry Boyd, John Dittmyer, Angelo Brusatory, James Garvey, Andy Quitner

Implementation Committee report on Johnstown: Ray Grosshans

A report compiled by Ray concerning his trip to Johnstown was sent to board members prior to the meeting for all to review. That report is attached to these minutes.

Ray traveled to Johnstown to further explore the possibility of ABANA establishing a presence in Johnstown and the opportunities that may exist to do so. As part of his trip, he met several individuals including:

Richard Burkert, (President, Johnstown Area Historical Association), Renée Daly, (Executive Director, Redevelopment Authority of Cambria County), John Dubnansky, (Economic Development Director, City of Johnstown, PA), Melissa Komar, (Executive Director, Johnstown Redevelopment Authority), Lisa M. Rager, (Executive Director, Visit Johnstown), Jacob Zerby, (City of Johnstown, PA), Patrick J Quinn, (Executive Director, Center for Metal Arts) and Dan Neville, (Center for Metal Arts), Mike Kane, (President, Community Foundation for the Alleghenies) and Barry Gallagher, (Realtor, Howard Hanna).

Ray gave a brief report on the history of Johnstown, Cambria Iron Works and surrounding area. The report detailed how after years of efforts by many they have been able to begin to revitalize of what had been a struggling community after the departure of Bethlehem Steel.

One of those efforts is an initiative called the Iron to Arts Corridor which encompasses parts of Iron Street along with former buildings that were part of the Cambria Iron Works, now the Center for Metal Arts and the Johnstown Train Station.

The train station, now owned by the Johnstown Area Historical Association, is one of the center pieces of the Iron to Arts Corridor. Those involved in development of the corridor have been waiting for the right tenant for the train station, one that will complement their mission.

Ray explained ABANA’s vision of creating a presence in Johnstown; hiring an executive director, creating a hall of fame, national gallery and having an international competition in 2021. Richard Burkert was very encouraged to hear what ABANA was planning and suggested that ABANA consider the train station as its home. In addition, everyone Ray meet with was very enthusiastic about having ABANA in Johnstown and offered to help in any way they can.

Lastly Ray meet with Pat Quinn and Dan Neville, CMA to convey his findings and vision for ABANA, both were very encouraging.
Discussion and possible action:

Board members asked questions about Ray’s trip and complimented him on his efforts. Question were asked about the possibility of grants for hiring an executive director and other aspects of creating a presence in Johnstown. Ray was left with the impression, from his meetings, that there would certainly be help for ABANA to secure grants for a location, remodeling of the space along with working towards our goals. He also thought that the funds for hiring an executive director should be something ABANA should find on its own as part of showing that we have skin in the game.

Board members had additional questions on how to finance this initiative and after discussion it was agreed the Finance Committee should get together and explore how to funding could be achieved, including hiring of an executive director.

Ray Grosshans and Tom Owens agreed work together to craft a value and vision statement along with a business plan plans for ABANA in Johnstown.

Ray will circle back with everyone he met to let them know we are enthusiastic about the possibilities and that we look forward to working with them. Ray will also have further discussion with Richard Burkert on details for leasing space in the train station.

The board will have further discussion at its next meeting.

Adjournment:

In a motion made by Bob seconded by Ray it was voted to adjourn at 9:42 EST. Vote unanimous

Respectfully submitted

Bob Valentine, Secretary