

Sandy Mush Community Center

Minutes

June 15, 2020

Attending: Vanessa Campbell, Al Davis, Kurt Eckel, Christopher Jayne, Bruce Larson, John Loyd, Deni Surrent. *Seven people attended this Board-only meeting.*

The meeting was called to order by President Christopher Jayne at 7:00 pm. He spoke briefly about the challenging times faced by all community members and thanked folks for picking up the slack.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Minutes. The May Minutes were prepared by Secretary Bruce Larson and distributed by email. **The Minutes were approved as submitted.**

Financial Reports. The May financial reports were prepared by Bookkeeper Christine Magnarella-Ray of Do Good Books, LLC with input from and oversight by Treasurer Bruce Larson, and distributed by email. **The financial reports were approved as submitted.** Bruce spoke briefly about the financial position of the Center and said a more detailed report regarding meeting the Center's budgetary goals will be provided at the July meeting.

Bruce noted that in the time between meetings the Executive Committee had been empowered by the Board to determine how to proceed with regard to the AT&T contract. The Committee decided to sign a new two-year contract with AT&T with an upgrade in service from 10 Mps download and upload to 50 Mps download and upload. Kurt Eckel noted that it was general practice for Boards to ratify decisions such as this at the next Board meeting. That practice having been indicated, **the decision of the Executive Committee was moved, seconded, and approved.**

Vanessa Campbell asked for an update on Red Oak's rental payments for the year. Bruce summarized them, noting that the Center was unavailable for its use starting March 16th and ending June 24th. All things considered, Red Oak donated \$1250 to the Center when it was unavailable for its use. The generosity of Red Oak is greatly appreciated.

Christopher provided an update on the Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant for 2021. He noted that the Center will likely receive \$33,000 for the next fiscal year, starting July 1st. He also noted that reporting for the SPG 2020 has been rolled into the first quarter of the new fiscal year, so unspent funds can be used at that time. In light of that Kurt asked Christopher for an update on the Site Plan provided for in SPG 2020. Christopher indicated that he would get on it.

NEW BUSINESS

SMCC Supporter Letter. Vanessa reported. The Development Team—Peggy Baldwin, Vanessa, and Bruce—has developed a letter to send out to Center supporters to let them know what has been going on during recent months, i.e., since the pandemic shutdown. The letter was shared with the Board and input was requested. Kurt said the letter was phenomenal and suggested that the letter be sent as presented. **The letter was moved, seconded, and approved.**

Internet Extender for Playground. This was submitted by Jean Barbara. Jean had indicated that better service is needed on the Playground side of the building, especially for the Food Pantry. As no one present felt able to speak to the question, it was suggested that the inquiry be directed to the Internet Team.

Shade Awning over Picnic Table. This was submitted by Ray Hearne. Action on this is contingent on the development of a site plan. It was suggested that action on this (and the Internet Extender) be rolled into the Site Plan.

Telephone Service at SMCC. Bruce Larson reported. He discussed the handout “Notes on Phones for SMCC,” which was developed to summarize recent discussions about the need for “a landline for the Center for safety reasons.” The handout summarized a discussion he had with an AT&T representative about the possibility of VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) or a landline at the Center. He noted that the “costs are dramatically different,” with a landline costing much more than VoIP.

Discussion ensued. It was noted that the Internet system is quite reliable and would be available for cell phone use in all but the most unusual circumstances. Kurt suggested that the VoIP alternative continue to be explored. Christopher encouraged attendees to talk with other groups about the need for a phone.

WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

The following reports were received:

- Development Team Report, including SMCC Supporter Letter—Peggy Baldwin, Vanessa Campbell, and Bruce Larson
- Notes of Phones for SMCC—Bruce Larson

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

John Loyd noted that he saw no possible chance of a large event—anything over 50 people—for the foreseeable future. This will likely affect event revenues.

There was general discussion of opening the Center. Kurt noted that as we occupy a county building, we need to conform to Buncombe County requirements.

The meeting was adjourned by Christopher at 7:52 pm.