

Sandy Mush Community Center

Minutes

October 16, 2020

Attending: Martha Ball, Amanda Barnes, Vanessa Campbell, Al Davis, Kurt Eckel, Bruce Larson, John Loyd. *Seven people attended.*

In the absence of the President (work), the meeting was called to order by Vice President Vanessa Campbell at 7:00 pm.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

Financial Reports. The September 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 **projected financial outcomes** for 2020. Expenses and Revenues continue to be down for the year. It is projected that the budget will likely break even for the year.

An update on the **Veterans Project** was provided by Bruce. He noted, based upon a conversation with Terri Wells, that changes at Allegra, the firm that was to develop the display alongside the Youth Room, has led to a change in plans. The current plan is to develop the display using the skills and talents of the Sandy Mush community. This will likely result in a smaller outlay than previously expected. Amanda Barnes noted that she had also had a conversation with Terri to that effect.

In 2019, November was the time when a **draft budget** was presented to the Board of Directors for input and Bruce suggested that the same be done this year. Vanessa suggested that input be sought from SMCC teams in developing the draft. Bruce indicated that he would do so.

NEW BUSINESS

Painting Parking Lot. Al Davis reported. He noted that the parking lot lines need repainting and paint is available for that purpose. He will work on the project with Kurt Eckel.

Store Space for Home School Curriculum. In the written report of Peggy Baldwin, a proposal was made to move, paint, and use existing lockers to store curriculum materials. **The proposal was moved, seconded, and approved.**

Food Pantry Liaison Committee. Vanessa reported for Christopher Jayne. In the September 2020 of the Board of Directors, there was discussion of future uses of the downstairs kitchen meeting area. In light of that discussion, it was suggested that a committee be formed so that members of the Board and representatives of the Food Pantry could speak with each other directly. The Committee has been formed and will consist of the following individuals: Martha Ball, Frank Barbara, Jean Barbara, Kurt Eckel, Bruce Larson, and Betsy Weinschel.

Trunk or Treat. Martha Ball reported. This year a socially-distanced Trunk or Treat will take place with bags of treats being given using the circle drive through of the Center. It will take place Saturday, October 31st, likely from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

ORAL REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

Blood Drive Update. Bruce reported. He noted that the Drive is scheduled to take place in the gym from 10 am to 3 pm on Saturday, November 21st. Amanda asked if the Center would be receiving a payment from The Blood Connection for the donated blood. Bruce said that he did not know but would find out.

Rec Team Update. Vanessa reported. She indicated that not all of the parts for the basketball goal have been received and it is being looked into.

A grant proposal for \$6,000 has been submitted to the Buncombe County Recreation Department. The funds received would be used to help pay for the refinishing of the gym floor, the total cost of which has been quoted at \$9,550. The difference between the grant and quoted cost will be funded using monies from the Health and Wellness Fund.

Kurt suggested that the refinishing work should consider formally incorporating the cakewalk numbers that are now taped to the floor. It was decided that the contractor should be asked about cakewalk numbers.

John Loyd asked about the removal of the gym radiators. It was noted in discussion that this could be a problem since SMCC doesn't own the building.

Site Plan. Vanessa shared an update from Christopher. Landscape architect Mary Weber is expected to begin work in the first or second week of November. Kurt indicated that it would be good to have multiple meetings with the architect to gather input, for example, meetings with the Outdoor Recreation Team and groups like Youth, Special Events, Food Pantry, and the Capital Improvement Team.

Strategic Partnership Grant 2020-21. Vanessa shared an update from Christopher. The first check from the grant should be received next week. During the meeting with Buncombe County, it was noted that there is a desire for there to be a virtual site visit of the Center.

In the relation to the Grant, Kurt noted that the reporting process has changed and is now quite different than before. He will complete and submit the report soon. Bruce indicated that he would be willing to work with Kurt on the report.

WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

The following reports were received:

- Youth Report—Peggy Baldwin
- Food Pantry Report—Jean Barbara
- Internet Reports—Mark Diaz

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Vanessa raised the question of the membership and officers of the 2021 Board of Directors. John noted there is a Nominating Committee, with Amanda, Kurt, and himself on it. People are being identified and contacted. Please direct suggestions to him.

It was noted that ATT has installed a phone line in the pipe that was placed in the ground during the power upgrade earlier this year in preparation for the election.

There continues to be email discussion with ATT about an outdoor access point that would cover the playground area.

Amanda asked about the website team. It was noted that earlier in the year an announcement was made about opportunities to receive website training and those on the team were the ones who responded. Training was limited by the pandemic and a lengthy WiFi outage.

Amanda, responding to a community inquiry, indicated that it would be good for Community Meetings to be publicized on the road sign since not all community members have Internet access.

John indicated that a carry-out chili fundraiser is something to consider. He would be willing to put together a team to do it.

On the topic of fundraising, merchandise sales were discussed. The importance of offering items that have a Sandy Mush connection was noted. Perhaps future sales could employ some test marketing.

The meeting was adjourned by Vanessa at 8:12 pm.