

# Sandy Mush Community Center

## Minutes

*August 17, 2020*

**Attending:** Peggy Baldwin, Vanessa Campbell, Al Davis, Christopher Jayne, Bruce Larson, John Loyd. *Six people attended this Board and presenters meeting.*

The meeting was called to order by President Christopher Jayne at 7:07 pm. Christopher welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

**Financial Reports.** The July 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 noted that the Net Income for July was \$368.21 and the overall financial standing of the Center had changed little since June. He noted that \$500 had been received from WNC Communities for the Census-related work being headed up by Peggy Baldwin. He indicated that his prior projection of a \$2,000 deficit for 2020 may have been a bit pessimistic since additional non-budgeted revenue sources are likely to come in during the rest of the year. Overall, the financial condition of the Center is sound.

He also noted that bookkeeper Christine Magnarella-Ray billed us for \$160 for her work in July. This unsolicited, but greatly appreciated, reduction was due to the reduced number of hours needed to complete her work during the last month. Christine usually bills us an agreed upon amount of \$300 per month.

John Loyd noted that the Center has nearly \$100,000 in its checking account and wondered if there might be a way of holding the Center's assets so they would earn a greater return. Bruce indicated that this would be possible once the position of the Treasurer is formalized with First Citizens Bank, which requires a form to be submitted by the President or the Vice President of the Center. Christopher will submit the form soon.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Youth Report.** Peggy Baldwin reported. She summarized the three recommendations that resulted from a meeting of the Youth Team and parents that took place on August 10th. The recommendations are stated in the written Youth Report. The recommendations were summarized and discussed sequentially.

**The first recommendation** related to Home School Fridays, which take place on the first and third Fridays of the month from 10 am to 1 pm. It was moved, seconded, and approved that **Home School Fridays resume September 4th in accordance with the Youth Report of August 20th.**

**The second recommendation** related to playground use. It was the sense of the meeting that the Youth Team **approach Buncombe Ready about the use of the SMCC playground.** Parents propose that “the playground be closed when there are youth activities in groups at the center since social distancing would be difficult to maintain. [However] They would like to see the playground open at other times with social distancing” since few people would be using it. This is the issue to be discussed with Buncombe Ready.

**The third recommendation** related to the scheduling of quiet study time at the Center to support the virtual learning of students when the weather shifts. Considerations such as days and times, staging of tables and chairs, distancing and personal protective equipment, outdoor internet use, and volunteers were all discussed. In light of the specific suggestions made, recognizing that specifics may change, it was moved, seconded, and approved to **flexibly pursue open quiet study time along the lines laid out in recommendation three.**

Christopher expressed thanks to all those who worked to develop the three recommendations. He will look into the purchase, rental, or borrowing of an appropriate-sized tent for study time use. In relation to this, the need for a Porta Potty and provisions for cleaning, has become more immediate.

**Items for the September Newsletter.** Peggy reported. She asked that suggestions for the Newsletter be sent to her.

**Upcoming Grant Opportunities.** Christopher reported. Three opportunities are coming up:

- Buncombe County Community and Rural Development Grant. Bruce will develop and submit this grant with input from the community.
- WNC Honors Awards. Bruce will develop and submit the application.
- NC Rural Center and the Connect program. Al Davis reported.

Al drew attention to an opportunity with the North Carolina Rural Center—the Connect Program—that was brought to broader attention by Pastor Mike Bailey of the Big Sandy United Methodist Church. Grants of up to \$15,000 are available for participating. The

Program provides opportunities to create teams to better understand and develop local communities with coaching over a series of months with Connect personnel. This may be something that people from the Center would want to participate in. Al will contact Pastor Bailey for more specifics. In relation to this, **it was moved, seconded, and approved that the Center will learn more about the Rural Center grant.**

## **ORAL REPORTS AND UPDATES**

**Buncombe County Grant/Landscape Master Plan.** Christopher reported. He will soon get the 2020-2021 Strategic Partnership Grant notarized, which is needed for fund distribution from Buncombe County. Reporting from the 2019-2020 SPG, which is not yet spent out, will be rolled into reporting for the 2020-2021 SPG. He noted that as the Center did not receive all of the funds it requested, there will be a need to prioritize the items to be pursued for the 2020-2021 SPG.

Regarding the Landscape Master Plan, Christopher noted that landscape architect Mary Weber will soon be sending a proposal to develop a site plan for the Center. It is expected to include a fee of \$2700 for the site plan with a charge of \$100/hour for gathering community input for the project. It is expected that work would be start two weeks after a contract had been signed with an additional four weeks to completion. He noted that one additional landscape architect he had spoke with would cost more and take longer to completion. *The Board expressed a clear desire to have a second proposal before taking further action.* Christopher said that he would get a second proposal.

## **WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES**

The following reports were received:

- Youth Report—Peggy Baldwin
- Internet Report—Mark Diaz
- North Carolina Rural Center—Al Davis

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

John asked whether it is known how the monies of the 2020-2021 SPG will be spent, noting that he has some ideas about it. The priorities for the 2020-2021 SPG have not yet been determined. A process for gathering input will need to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned by Christopher at 8:45 pm.