

Sandy Mush Community Center

Minutes

May 18, 2020

Attending: Amanda Barnes, Al Davis, Kurt Eckel, Bruce Larson, John Loyd. *Five people attended this Board-only meeting.*

In the absence of the President (illness) and Vice President (emergency), the meeting was called to order by Secretary and Treasurer Bruce Larson at 7:06 pm.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Minutes. Secretary Bruce Larson reported. Due to the pandemic the Board did not meet in April, so there were no Minutes to approve. He noted in the last month, one motion was passed and acted upon by unanimous email vote.

Motion of April 30, 2020.

To approve the Minutes of the Sandy Mush Community Center of February 17, 2020, as submitted.

Financial Reports. Treasurer Bruce Larson reported. He summarized the Income and Expenses for the first four months of 2020, which were broadly consistent with the 2020 budget. In addition, he provided an update on the 2020 Strategic Partnership Grant. As of May 18th, all but \$4,000 of the SPG have been committed, although not spent.

The Financial Report was approved as submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

AT&T Contract. Bruce reported. A distributed one-page report on internet alternatives was discussed. Three alternatives were discussed: (1) remaining with the existing 10x10 (10 Mbs download and 10 Mbs download), although with imminent changes by AT&T; (2) staying with AT&T but upgrading to 50x50 for an additional \$55/month; and (3) a Skyrunner alternative. The sense of the meeting was that there was not currently enough information to decide. Given the absence of news about the Strategic Partnership Grant 2021, it was unclear how internet service would be paid for, and there was no information at that time about what Skyrunner might be able to provide and how much its services would cost. In the absence of such information and in the expectation that much of that information would be available in the next week, **the Board empowered the officers—President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer—to make a decision and inform all members of the Board about the decision made.**

In the context of this discussion, Amanda Barnes reminded those present of LuEllen Epstein's previous request for a Center phone or phones in case of emergency. Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) had been mentioned previously. Where do we stand on this? Bruce indicated that he would look into this and report back. He also indicated that he would look into the status of monthly internet reports.

Red Oak use of the SMCC. This was an open discussion occasioned by an email from Kevin Campbell of the Rental Team indicating that Red Oak would like to begin renting the Center again. Discussion ensued, with a stress on the many precautions Red Oak takes to ensure the health of its clients. This resulted in the following

Motion. Based on the fact that Red Oak is a quarantined family unit needing to use the Center for clinical purposes, we will make the upstairs level of the Center exclusively available to them until further notice. Red Oak will be expected to maintain its current quarantine policy and inform the Center if there are any illnesses. This policy is effective May 25th.

The Motion was moved, seconded, and approved.

Food Pantry use of downstairs Kitchen. Kurt reported. Due to the pandemic and the extensive economic hardship that has resulted from it, the Food Pantry has expanded to two Fridays per month, rather than its traditional one Friday. More than twice as many people are now being served each month and this has required more food, more preparation for each Food Pantry, and a reconfiguration of how the Food Pantry operates. To deal with this situation, **it was moved, seconded, and approved that the Food Pantry have exclusive use of the downstairs—kitchen and hallway—until further notice.**

At this time, Al Davis drew attention to a part of the building that might be better used—the coal room on the ground floor. At present it is largely being used as a miscellaneous storage area. What can we do with that area?

Thank you on SMCC sign. John Loyd reported. He indicated the importance of saying "Thank you!" to all the community members who have stepped up to help deal with the pandemic. John was empowered to move forward with such a statement

ORAL REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

Board Retreat. Kurt reported. He noted that Greg Walker Wilson, who is to lead the Board Retreat, is working virtually, not face-to-face, during the pandemic. Kurt reported that it was the opinion of the SMCC officers, that a Board Retreat should be face-to-face, so the Retreat is on hold until such time as a face-to-face retreat can be held. Kurt stressed the importance of having a retreat in order to improve Board functioning.

Capital Improvement Team Report. Kurt reported. He discussed the Strategic Partnership Grant 2020 and noted that the Team is not ready to make a recommendation regarding its \$4,000 of uncommitted funds. It may be possible to push these funds into the next Buncombe County fiscal year.

Christopher Jayne will be contacted with regard to the status of the site plan for the Center.

In response to a question about vendor selection, Kurt noted that a principle driving selection is highest value, not lowest cost.

WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

The following reports were received:

- Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer—Bruce Larson
- AT&T Contract—Bruce Larson

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

John and Amanda provided some information about upcoming events. John indicated that the July 4th event looks unlikely given the pandemic. Amanda is working on the Fall Festival, while Amanda and John are working on Trunk or Treat. They will keep us informed about further developments.

The meeting was adjourned by Bruce at 8:35 pm.