



Sandy Mush Community Center
P.O. Box 1686, Leicester, NC 28748

sandymushcommunitycenter.org

SMCC is a nonprofit recognized as tax exempt by the IRS under section 501(c)(3).

Minutes

February 19, 2021

Attending: Amanda Barnes, Kevin Campbell, Al Davis, Steve Duckett, Kurt Eckel, Diana Gates, Christopher Jayne, Bruce Larson, John Loyd, Amy Sue Moore, Ilsa Myers, Frank Ramirez, Amy McMahan Surrett, Deni Surrett. *Fourteen people attended.*

The meeting was called to order by President Christopher Jayne at 7:00 pm. Board members briefly introduced themselves and their connection to the Center.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Minutes. The December Minutes were prepared by Secretary Bruce Larson and distributed by email. One minor change had been made to the Minutes subsequent to that distribution. **The Minutes, with the minor change, were moved, seconded, and approved.**

Bruce noted that since the December meeting there had been one Action Without Meeting. The Action related to Gym Floor Protection and its text follows:

MOTION: The Capital improvement Team moves that SMCC purchase a 4'x6' entry mat and two 3'x20' runners to protect the recently refinished gym floor.

The projected cost of the runners and entry mat was \$782.51. The Capital Improvement Team recommended that the necessary funds be drawn from the Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant for 2019-20. **The motion was approved and by all fourteen Board members.**

Bruce noted that the actual cost of the project, due to a price change, was \$808.02.

With the new Board year, it is time to formally record the current (2021) and previous (2020) officers of the Board of Directors of the Sandy Mush Community Center.

The current (2021) officers of the Board of Directors are:

- President, Christopher Jayne
- Vice President, Amanda Barnes
- Treasurer, Bruce Larson
- Secretary, Bruce Larson

The previous (2020) officers of the Board of Directors were:

- President, Christopher Jayne
- Vice President, Vanessa Campbell
- Treasurer, Bruce Larson
- Secretary, Bruce Larson

Financial Reports. The January 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.** The Center is in very good financial condition.

NEW BUSINESS

Revisiting Meeting Night(s). Christopher reported. He noted that the Friday meeting night presents a challenge for regular attendance for Board members. After discussion, **it was moved, seconded, and approved to change the meeting night to the third Tuesday of the month and its time to 6 pm, beginning in March, so long as the change works for Red Oak which currently uses the Center on Tuesday nights.** Kevin Campbell will check with Red Oak regarding the change.

Rental Team Discussion. Kevin reported. He noted that an interest in renting the Yoga Room for Zoom meetings has been brought to his attention, and he was looking for some guidance about what to charge. Discussion ensued, with one possibility being to charge \$15/hour with an upper limit for multiple hours. Kevin will develop a proposal and bring it to the March Board meeting.

Related to the above, Christopher indicated the need for some forward thinking regarding reopening the Center. Steve Duckett suggested bringing the Buncombe County Safety Officer to the Center to gauge the occupancy of its rooms.

Bylaw Change. Christopher reported. He noted that at the December Board meeting a proposal was made by John Loyd to amend the Bylaws—Article III, Section 6—with regard to Action Without Meeting. At that time it was moved, seconded, and approved to place that proposal on the Agenda for the next Board meeting. The text follows:

In case of a situation where the SMCC board has to make a decision outside of a regular scheduled board meeting the board will be advised in writing of the situation as much in advance as possible, according to the essence of the issue to be voted on. A two thirds majority vote of the members of the board is required

to authorize what is requested. The board will not conduct what would be known as regular business in this manner. An example of the need for a hasty decision would be our heat failing and hiring it repaired.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to replace Article III, Section 6 with the text above.

Come to Leicester Tour. John reported. He distributed a handout from Peggy Baldwin which proposed expanded SMCC participation in the Come to Leicester Tour. Currently the Center sponsors the Tour via a \$150 donation and there is also interest in using the Center as a site for some vetted local artists to display their work. The expanded sponsorship would also include rent-free use of the gym from Friday afternoon (8/20) through Sunday afternoon (8/22). Discussion ensued. John will relay the ideas generated to Peggy for further consideration.

ORAL REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

Grant Submittal. Christopher reported. A proposal for the 2021-22 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant—Building for a Healthy, Engaged and Connected Community—was recently submitted. The amount requested was \$35,500: \$8,500 for Internet and \$27,000 for renovations to the Coal Room which would enable the Food Pantry to continue its work providing food to the community and free up the Community Room on the ground floor for general use. Christopher thanked the Building Team for its work developing renovation estimates. Appreciative words for Christopher's work were expressed.

Preliminary Site Plan Report. Christopher reported. He spoke about the work that landscape architect Mary Weber has undertaken for the Center. The funding for her work was included in the 2019-2020 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant. Preliminary plans have been developed and were distributed to the Board. He is now looking for a time to discuss the plans as a group.

Spring Fling Discussion. Frank Ramirez reported. The Spring Fling typically takes place in late April-early May and primarily takes place outside. The Spring Fling did not take place during 2020 due to the pandemic. It was suggested that Frank go forward with event planning. Steve Duckett will contact a representative of Buncombe County for relevant information.

Hiring. Kurt Eckel reported. He provided background information for new Board members on a projected paid position for the Center. A position at \$300/month was provided for in the 2021 Operating Budget. The full description of the position is not yet complete, but an important element of it would be to coordinate matters and tie up loose ends. The person who would fill this position would need to have a volunteer heart. A draft job description will be developed for the March meeting.

Christopher noted that it would be good to have an office for such a person. The Principal's Office on the between the Yoga Room and the Library is a possibility.

Kurt went on to note that grant seeking might be part of a new position. Kevin indicated, and Kurt agreed, that grant writing would also be a good role to fill.

Culvert Update. Al Davis reported. Discussions about replacing the culvert and repairing the entrance to School Road have been ongoing among the Leicester Fire Department Station 2, Big Sandy UMC, and the Center, with the view that the costs would be shared equally. Ronald Prestwood of the Fire Department has been discussing the situation with the state. A 40-foot culvert is on location, but additional information is awaited. Since the Center will eventually need to contribute to the culvert replacement and entrance repair, **it was moved, seconded, and approved to allocate an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for the road entrance project.**

WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

The following reports were received:

- Food Pantry Report—Jean Barbara
- Youth Report—Peggy Baldwin

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Kurt asked about the status of the second Bylaw change briefly discussed at the December 2020 Board meeting. Bruce distributed a draft for discussion at the March Board meeting. The change would add a new section, which would become Article V, Section 10. Its text follows:

Section 10. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall comprise the Steering Team. The purpose of the Steering Team is to help ensure the effective functioning of the Board of Directors and the purpose of the Sandy Mush Community Center as stated in Article I, Section 2. The Steering Team shall meet between regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors to share information, identify and clarify matters for Board consideration, and help develop the agenda for Board meetings. In the case of an emergency necessitating Action Without Meeting (Article III, Section 6), the Steering Team shall make it happen. The Steering Team shall not: elect or remove Board members; amend the Bylaws; hire or fire staff; approve or change the budget; or add or eliminate programs.

Christopher noted that it would be good to arrange tours for the new Board members. Stay tuned for further developments. He also noted that there is some interest in bringing a Rabies Clinic to the Center.

There being no more announcements or comment, the meeting was adjourned by Christopher at 8:48 pm.