

Sandy Mush Community Center

Minutes

June 15, 2021

Attending: Frank Barbara, Jean Barbara, Amanda Barnes, Kevin Campbell, Al Davis, Kurt Eckel, Diana Gates, Bruce Larson, John Loyd, Amy Sue Moore, Ilsa Myers, Frank Ramirez, Deni Surrect, Keith Wells. *Fourteen people attended.*

In the absence of the President (family), the meeting was called to order by Vice President Amanda Barnes at 6:02 pm.

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.**

NEW BUSINESS

Capital Improvement Team Leadership. Kurt Eckel reported. **It was moved, seconded, and approved for Frank Barbara to be the lead of the Capital Improvement Team.**

Rental Team Leadership. Kevin Campbell reported. **It was moved, seconded, and approved for Frank Ramirez to be the lead of the Rental Team.**

Renting Yoga Room. Kevin reported. A request has been made to rent the Yoga Room on a daily basis—Is this something we want to do? Discussion ensued, leading to the suggestion that the Rental Team prepare a proposal and bring it to a future Community Meeting.

Outdoor Covering/Youth Program. John Loyd reported. **It was moved, seconded, and approved that the Center provide up to \$350 to match funds from the Youth Program to purchase a tent.** It was suggested that the Youth Program consult with Frank Barbara of the Capital Improvement Team regarding the tent.

ORAL REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

July 3rd Event Update. John reported. The event is developing nicely—additional volunteers are welcome. This will be a free event, running from 3:30 to 6:30 pm, with

food from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. There will be a covered-dish buffet inside and grilled burgers outside, as well as tables and chairs inside and out.

Food Pantry. Jean Barbara reported. Jean noted that there continues to be high demand at the pantry. Recently purchases of produce have been made from Fiddler's Green, enabled by a grant from Food Lion.

Jean noted that Leah Weidner, the MANNA Agency Relations Manager for Buncombe Count, recently applied for a Food Lion Make Over grant for the Pantry. If approved, up to \$6,000 could be received to help transform the Coal Room for Pantry use. Hiring a grant writer would help secure additional grants. Kurt suggested that this might be an outcome of the upcoming Board Retreat (July 10th).

Jean noted that as things continue to open up, there is a need for new volunteers as some of those who have volunteered have gone back to work.

Communications Team Update. Kevin reported. Gary Crossey has completed the communications work for the Center, work which included the transition to MailChimp for general communication with the community and the introduction of Google Workspace for nonprofits, which includes organizational email addresses and other functions.

Building Team Security Concerns. Kevin reported. He noted specific security concerns regarding the Center and urged action on them.

Capital Improvement Team Updates. Frank B reported. Al Davis is now a member of the CIT. He reviewed Board action from May, noting that two doors have been ordered and a deposit made—installation will take place in 6-8 weeks.

Coal Room renovation will be moving forward, as it is largely independent of the site plan. Some of the funding for the renovation will be paid from the Center's 2022 Strategic Planning Grant from Buncombe County. To facilitate the renovation, **it was moved, seconded, and approved to borrow up to \$500 from unrestricted funds to rent a dumpster. Such funds will be repaid upon receipt of grant funds from Buncombe County.** Given the presence of some interior and exterior cracks in the Coal Room, hiring a structural engineer to do an assessment is being considered.

An outdoor repeater is to be installed on the roof of the Center. This will provide 360-degree coverage of the entire SMCC property, greatly expanding free internet access for the community.

Strategic Partnership Extension. Kurt reported. He summarized, especially for new Board members, the recent history of SP grants. Regarding SPG2021, he spoke with Angelyn Johnson, who works with the SP grants. In their discussion, she noted that the Buncombe County Commissioners really want grant monies to be spent out by June 30th, although it was noted that there was a possibility of extension by formal appeal.

In light of the above, Bruce suggested that SPG2021 be spent out by (1) purchasing two additional entry doors and (2) to empower the Capital Improvement Team to determine how to spend the remaining SPG2021 funds, approximately \$2,236. He further suggested (3) that the Center commit to spending \$10,000 on accessibility-related features related to the site plan. **The suggestions were moved, seconded, and approved.**

WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

The following reports were received:

- Youth Report—Peggy Baldwin
- Internet Report—Mark Diaz

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

John indicated that the firefighters will be invited to the July 3rd event. If you have any suggestions about the event, please let him know.

Kevin asked, “How do we move forward with the site plan?” Kurt provided a review of some of the history associated with SPG2021, especially as it relates to the site plan, as well as information gathering. Frank R asked that the latest plans be sent to the Board—Bruce said he would do that. Steve suggested that the site plan could be part of a charette to share the plan and get community input. Bruce said that he would review the various communications between those working on the site plan, including landscape architect Mary Weber, and develop a summary in order to forward the work on the site plan.

Kevin noted the importance of having an orientation as a regular practice of providing new Board members with information on Center practices and history. In relation to this, Ilsa Myers noted that a building tour would be useful, too. In light of this, Amanda said that she would take responsibility for developing an orientation with a tour for all Board members. Kurt will work with Amanda to develop the agenda for the orientation. Frank B will lead the tour.

There being no more announcements or comment, the meeting was adjourned by Amanda at 7:28 pm.