

## Sandy Mush Community Center

### Minutes

July 20, 2021

**Attending:** Frank Barbara, Amanda Barnes, Kevin Campbell, Al Davis, Steve Duckett, Diana Gates, Christopher Jayne, Bruce Larson, Gilles Lefèvre, Laura Lefèvre, John Loyd, Amy Sue Moore, Ilsa Myers, Frank Ramirez, Amy McMahan Surrett, Barbara Wells, Keith Wells. *Seventeen people attended.*

The meeting was called to order by President Christopher Jayne at 6:02 pm. He spoke appreciatively of the recent Board Orientation and building tour, as well as the recent Board Retreat.

### MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

**Financial Reports.** The June 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

**Leicester Volunteer Fire Department Community Outreach.** Megan Swartz and Chief Greg Thomas presented. It was indicated that the LVFD is looking to expand its community outreach generally and to SMCC particularly. In response to their question “Can we come by for some of SMCC’s events?” and enthusiastic “Absolutely” was the reply. A list of forthcoming events was related. Peggy Baldwin and Kevin Campbell were suggested as possible Center contacts for LVFD.

**Third Floor Accessibility.** Frank Ramirez reported. He noted that the recent building tour identified the third floor as a possible resource for the Center.

Christopher provided some history and background related to the third floor. This included space for 4-H, building examination by Buncombe County and the possible need for an elevator, and the development of a Life Safety Plan for the Center by architect George Stowe. The Life Safety Plan and its provisions are based on the education function of the building.

Frank Barbara provided a review of issues related to the third floor. He noted the breadth and specifics of work that would have to be done to use the third floor and meet building requirements. This would be expensive and could not be done by volunteers—

a paid project manager would be required to undertake the work. Amy McMahan Surrett asked about preservation funding possibilities.

Frank Ramirez asked “How do we work toward bringing the third floor online for SMCC use?” Toward that end, it would be good to gather existing information about the third floor.

**Funding For Veterans Day Event.** Amanda Barnes reported. She noted that the event will take place on Sunday, November 14th. The event is expected to require \$300 for snacks and paper goods and \$1,000 for meals. Additional expenses include \$500 for track lighting to illuminate the Veterans Wall adjacent to the Youth Room. An email from Bruce summarized the funds approved for the Veterans Project, which are more than adequate to meet the expected expenses. John Loyd noted that the November Chili Dinner will need to be moved in light of the Veterans Day Event.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to use approved funds for the Veterans Project Event and track lighting.**

## **ORAL REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES**

**Internet Repeater Update.** Frank Barbara reported. The Repeater has been installed on the roof and is working great. The signal covers all of the campus and extends up to the road. The signal is weakest toward the northwest side of the building by the propane tank.

**Coal Room Renovation Update.** Frank Barbara reported. A grant of \$6,000 from Food Lion with the help of MANNA was just awarded to help renovate the Coal Room. This is in addition to the funds from the 2022 Strategic Partnership Grant from Buncombe County, which provides about \$13,000 for the renovation. The Capital Improvement Team is working to secure bids.

Christopher asked if there was a stipulation in the Food Lion grant that the Coal Room must be a permanent location for the Food Pantry. This will be looked into.

**Capital Improvement Team Spending.** Frank Barbara reported. Recent spending from SPG2021 was summarized, which included new WiFi thermostats.

**Capital Improvement Team Necessary.** Frank Barbara reported. Prospective improvements include painting of outside windows and associated millwork. Painting of the gym is also desirable.

Septic issues need to be kept in mind. There are two tanks, the location of one is known but the location of the tank for the ground-floor bathrooms is unknown. When the Community Room begins to have greater use, this may be a problem. Frank has been in contact with a plumber about locating the tank.

Frank Ramirez noted that the building has some loose bricks. This had been mentioned to the structural engineer who recently viewed the building, and it didn't seem like an issue.

**Lighting for Veterans Wall.** Frank Barbara reported. Kevin Campbell is taking care of this.

**Outdoor Mini Library Replacement Request.** Frank Barbara reported. Community members miss the mini library that was previously situated on the south side of the building and would like to see it replaced. Amy Sue Moore and Amy McMahan Surrent will work on this project.

**Food Pantry Report.** Frank Barbara reported. During the last month, 180 households were served—approximately 500 people overall.

Keith Wells thanked all of the people for their help in clearing out the Coal Room.

**Rental Team Yoga Room.** Kevin Campbell reported. In a follow up from the June Community Meeting, he noted that the Yoga Room will not be rented for the time being. In relation to this, and in discussion with yoga instructor Nancy Jurek, it was noted that perhaps the best use of the Yoga Room would be for Health and Wellness purposes. Then the room could be an anchor for a health and wellness program. Diana Gates noted that we might want a different name for the Yoga Room. This would eliminate some of the uncertainty about the purposes of the room.

Kevin also mentioned a rental request for a Get Out the Vote meeting. This led to extensive discussion. The result of the discussion was recognition of the importance of developing rental policies and procedures for the Center, which will take time. The Rental Team and Steve Duckett will undertake research into such policies and procedures, including input from the Buncombe County attorney.

**Communications Team Update.** Kevin reported. Diana will be working on a new website for the Center. The Team will be working with Peggy Baldwin on the Newsletter process and publication.

**Site Plan Update.** Bruce Reported. He summarized the Site Plan process to date. At the present time there are two preliminary site plans—Master Plan and Master Plan-Alternate—and input has been gathered about both. By the next Community Meeting, landscape architect Mary Weber will take the input and develop a new site plan for consideration.

Bruce asked about sharing the site plan with the community, especially adjacent neighbors. It was generally thought that a free-standing event devoted to the site plan would be best, the event to be held in September.

## **WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES**

The following reports were received:

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

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

First-time attendees Gilles and Laura Lefèvre were recognized, and the attendance of Barbara and Keith Wells was acknowledged.

The Leicester Community Center will be the site of the Lester Farmers Market, starting Wednesday, August 4th. It will meet from 3:30 to 6:30 pm. More information can be obtained by email: [Lesterfarmsmarket@gmail.com](mailto:Lesterfarmsmarket@gmail.com).

Please send Bob Campbell good wishes for his recovery.

There being no more announcements or comment, the meeting was adjourned by Christopher at 7:45 pm.