

## Sandy Mush Community Center

### Minutes

September 7, 2021

Make-up Meeting for August 24, 2021

**Attending:** Frank Barbara, Kevin Campbell, Steve Duckett, Kurt Eckel, Diana Gates, Christopher Jayne, Bruce Larson, Don Myers, Ilsa Myers, Frank Ramirez, Betsy Weinschel, Susan Wilson. *Twelve people attended.*

The meeting was called to order by President Christopher Jayne at 6:03 pm. He noted that Al Davis had resigned from the Board. He also noted that Deni Surrett had a death in the family. Christopher made some brief remarks about following up on the Board Retreat—Bruce Larson indicated that we would redistribute the information generated.

### 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.**

### NEW BUSINESS

**Request to Hire a Grant Writer.** Kevin Campbell reported. He indicated that the Center's need for a grant writer was self-explanatory—we need grant writing to move things forward. Discussion ensued. Ilsa Myers asked, "Who has been writing the grants?" Up until now, they have been written by community members, some on the Board, some team heads, and others.

Christopher had two concerns: (1) that grants might determine what we do rather than the other way around; and (2) the importance of having a sense of how large a program the Center wants--"Is there a desire for a much larger organization or one that is smaller?" Kurt Eckel indicated that Christopher had hit the nail on the head. Frank Barbara asked "is all this sustainable?" Steve Duckett noted the importance of having a process, one which would include project identification, prioritization, and then grant writing. At present, the two primary projects of the Center are the site Master Plan and the Coal Room Project.

In light of the discussion, **it was moved, seconded, and approved that Kevin Campbell be given the green light to explore grant writers.**

Christopher took the opportunity to draw attention to the upcoming Community Meeting, on September 21st, which will be devoted exclusively to the site Master Plan.

**Democratic Cluster.** Frank Ramirez reported. He gave the floor to Susan Wilson. Susan indicated that she no longer wants to rent the Center for a cluster meeting place of Get Out the Vote. (At a previous meeting, additional information was requested about the nature of such a meeting due to a concern about its appearance to some as a partisan activity.) Don Myers noted that some prior cluster meetings had taken place at nearby public and non-profit locations.

Kurt mentioned that previously the Board had determined that elected officials can have events at the Center, but not candidates for office. Partisan issues need to be avoided.

## **ORAL REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES**

**Update on Veterans Wall Project.** Frank B. reported. The Project is nearly done. It will cost about \$1,073.

**Update on Exterior Doors.** Frank B. reported. We are still waiting for the doors, which have been delayed due to the pandemic. An update on when they will be installed is expected in the next day or two.

**Update on Coal Room Renovation.** Frank B. reported. In order to proceed with the Renovation, a structural engineer must be hired. The Strategic Partnership Grant 2022 provides \$1,500 for such a hire, but the funds have not yet been received. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to borrow \$1,500 from General Funds to hire an engineer, with said funds to be repaid when the SPG2022 funds are received.**

**Site Plan Update.** Bruce Reported. In light of the upcoming Community Meeting on September 21st, which will be devoted exclusively to the site Master Plan, he spoke briefly. He drew attention to the most recent drawing of the site Master Plan-Alternate, dated August 30, 2021, and some of its features as outlined in an email from landscape architect Mary Weber.

**Communications Team Update.** Kevin reported. He noted that things are going well. More people are welcome to join the Team, especially those with technical knowledge.

Diana Gates and Amy McMahan Surrett have met and discussed the upcoming print newsletter. The Team is also looking to update some aspects of the website. A digital newsletter will be forthcoming, too.

## **WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES**

The following reports were received:

- Food Pantry Reports—Jean Barbara
- Youth Program—Peggy Baldwin

Frank B. noted that the Food Pantry Update for September 7, 2021, states that beginning in October the Food Pantry will go to one distribution per month, on the second Friday of the month from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Since food donations to MANNA are down, and pandemic relief grants and federal help have declined, the cost of providing food has begun to skyrocket. There is also concern about volunteer well-being. Food Pantry clients will be informed of the change at the next food distribution, September 10th.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kurt asked about the status of the Center's lease with Buncombe County. Steve indicated that the County is working on a new approach for leases, and it is not yet ready.

There being no more announcements or comment, the meeting was adjourned by Christopher at 7:35 pm.