

Sandy Mush Community Center

Minutes

November 16, 2021

Attending: Frank Barbara, Jean Barbara, Amanda Barnes, Bob Campbell, Kathleen Campbell, Kevin Campbell, Steve Duckett, Diana Gates, Christopher Jayne, Lorrie Jayne, Nancy Jurek, Bruce Larson, Amy Sue Moore, Ilsa Myers, Frank Ramirez, Amy McMahan Surrett, Deni Surrett, Jerry Surrett, Keith Wells. *Nineteen people attended.*

The meeting was called to order by President Christopher Jayne at 6:02 pm. Those attending introduced themselves.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Minutes. The Minutes for October 19, 2021 were prepared by Secretary Bruce Larson and distributed by email. **The Minutes were approved as submitted.**

Financial Reports. The October 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.**

Bruce distributed a DRAFT 2022 Budget and provided an overview. Board members were asked to send questions and suggestions to him, so they might be considered for inclusion in the Budget to be voted on in December.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominations. Christopher reported. Nominations have been received from the Nominations Committee—John Loyd and Kurt Eckel—for the 2022 Board. They are:

Officers

President: Amanda Barnes
Vice President: Kevin Campbell
Secretary: Amy Sue Moore
Treasurer: Bruce Larson

Board of Directors

Frank Barbara
Cheryl Frisbee
Lorrie Jayne
Nancy Jurek
Lisa Beth White

Officers serve two-year terms; other Board members serve three-year terms. Voting on the nominations will take place in December.

Pavilion Discussion. Frank Barbara reported. He noted that we need to start discussing the characteristics of the pavilion provided for in the site Master Plan. Amy McMahan Surrett suggested that three options be developed, which might be provided to obtain community input. Regarding characteristics, Steve Duckett said he would communicate with Buncombe County Parks and Recreation for their thoughts.

Discussion & Vote on Door Colors. Frank B reported. The new doors have a primer coat, but a finish coat is needed. After discussion, **it was moved, seconded, and approved to follow the existing color scheme of the building for the new doors.**

Frank B also mentioned that the Center is now operating in winter mode. He has sent out information relating to practices and procedures to relevant teams. This also included information about how to sign up for the apps controlling the mini-splits and the Honeywell thermostats.

Frank B also noted that with the new doors it is important to develop procedures for managing keys. Bruce is creating spreadsheets for the new keys.

Search for a Grant Writer. Kevin Campbell reported. He has done some looking around, especially with an organization called Upwork which provides access to grant writers. Four people have replied and provided proposals.

Kevin noted that grant writers seem to work on an hourly basis with fees varying from \$25-\$100/hour. To make use of them, we need to have specific projects in mind.

Amy M Surrett said that Lisa Beth White is a very experienced grant writer.

Fiber Optic Provider & Cost Discussion. Kevin reported. He noted that Kurt Eckel, the head of the Fiber Optic Team, was unable to attend tonight but had developed the following motion that grew out of an was approved by the Team: **SMCC will terminate its agreement with AT&T effective 1/31/2022. SMCC will enter into an agreement with FBEMC and Epsilon Systems for fiber internet and support services beginning 2/1/2022.**

At this point, Bruce discussed a spreadsheet developed to compare the costs of remaining with AT&T versus French Broad EMC and Epsilon Systems; Epsilon Systems would manage the inside WiFi and connections that French Broad brings to the building. The spreadsheet showed that over a six-year time period, each year with French Broad/Epsilon would cost less than AT&T. In one year (2022) about \$200 would be saved, in each year 2023-2026 more than \$5,000 would be saved, and in 2027 slightly more than \$3,000 would be saved.

The motion (in bold) above was moved, seconded, and approved.

ORAL REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

Haunted House. Amanda Barnes reported. The Haunted House was a great success. There were 196 participants who had a lot of fun; 24 volunteers made the event happen. Those involved can't wait until next year to do it again and suggestions have been received on how to build upon this year's event. Trunk or Treat had a good turnout, too.

Building Team. Keith Wells reported. He expressed his concern about gym heating being on unnecessarily, noting that the gym thermostat should be set no higher than 60 degrees. (There is a page stating that by the gym thermostat.) Frank B noted that it may be possible to set a maximum temperature for the thermostat. It is also important to close storm windows after use.

Along the lines of building maintenance, it may be time to increase the rental security deposit, perhaps to \$75, to encourage renters to leave the building clean and orderly after use. Christopher suggested that this issue be placed on a future agenda.

Regarding rentals, Frank Ramirez indicated that event crashers and security also need to be addressed. These items might be built into future contracts. He also asked how keys for events should be handled, indicating that this was something for the Steering Team to discuss.

Coal Room Renovation Update. Frank B reported. A document outlining Food Pantry Renovation Expenditures continues to be updated and distributed. The new doors for the renovated area have been installed and are operational. These doors are keyed differently than the other exterior doors. In order for the boiler to be removed, some plumbing work must take place. Bolton Plumbing is doing that work.

Site Plan Progress. Frank B reported. A copy of the site Master Plan has been provided to Brian Chandler of the Buncombe County staff for review and ultimately discussion with the Capital Improvement Team. There is very little that the Team can do without BC approval, and this includes pavilion-related work. The Team is fortunate to have Kurt Eckel on it as one who has substantial experience in managing exterior work such as that involved in the Master Plan.

Community Outreach. Amy M Surret reported. She reviewed the work of Big Sandy UMC and its Community Outreach Program, for which \$15,000 was received to bring care and connection to Big Sandy Mush, Little Sandy Mush, and Sandy Mush, starting with seniors. A number of Center Board and other members are involved in this work. The intention is to have a Community Nurse that would help fulfil the goals of Big Sandy UMC and the Center. This work will be non-denominational and might begin as early as February 2022. An additional partner might include the Council on Aging.

Christopher noted that when the Center reorganized a few years back, this is the kind of project that people had in mind.

WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

The following reports were received:

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

Here is a list of Proposed Events for 2022 developed by John Loyd of the Events Team:

March 19, with 26 as a weather date, **the chili supper**. Maybe with a dance?

April 23, Spring Fling with the plant exchange, food and family activities and hopefully some new programming

May 28, dedication of the veteran's wall of honor with a catered meal - event team supports this event

July 4, a Monday, our annual picnic. NOTE this could be on Saturday July 2. Let's discuss this.

September 17, a family covered dish and fun day and **the annual homecoming** as well.

October 29, Fall Festival with haunted house, trunk or treat and other programming TBA.

Please contact Event Team members with feedback and suggestions.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

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