



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).

Sandy Mush Community Center

Minutes

December 21, 2021

Attending: Frank Barbara, Jean Barbara, Amanda Barnes, Kevin Campbell, Steve Duckett, Kurt Eckel, Christopher Jayne, Lorrie Jayne, Bruce Larson, John Loyd, Angie Mace, Amy Sue Moore, Ilsa Myers, Frank Ramirez, Barbara Wells, Keith Wells, Lisa Beth White. *Seventeen people attended.*

The meeting was called to order by President Christopher Jayne at 6:03 pm. He thanked retiring members Kurt Eckel, John Loyd, and Deni Surrett for their service; Christopher is also retiring. The retiring members were roundly applauded. Those attending introduced themselves.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Minutes. The Minutes for November 16, 2021 were prepared by Secretary Bruce Larson and distributed by email. **The Minutes were approved as submitted.**

Financial Reports. The November 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.** He noted that the Center will likely have a surplus for 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

2022 BOD Election. Christopher reported. The following officers and board members, all nominated in November, were elected. Officers were elected for two-year terms and Board members were elected for three-year terms.

Officers

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

Board of Directors

Frank Barbara
Cheryl Frisbee
Lorrie Jayne
Lisa Beth White

Prior to the elections Nancy Jurek communicated that 2022 was not a good time for her to serve and that 2023 might be better.

In summary:

The current (2022) officers of the Board of Directors are:

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

The previous (2021) officers of the Board of Directors were:

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

2022 Budget. Bruce reported. The proposed operating budget for 2022 was presented, a slight revision of what was distributed in November. The most notable changes were: (1) an increase of 10% for cleaning services—this is the first change since paid cleaning services began; and (2) renaming the 8360 line from Administrative Services to Grant Services—this reflects more accurately the current emphasis of the Center. **The proposed budget was moved, seconded, and approved.**

At this time Christopher drew attention to the distributed copy of an article from *The Asheville Citizen-Times* that noted that Buncombe County government “wants to do better by the more than 35 community centers inside its borders.” The community center buildings that are county owned, where the Sandy Mush, Beaverdam, Bent Creek, and Beech community centers, would be examined as part of that process. This may result in ongoing funding in the annual Buncombe County budget for building maintenance.

Steve Duckett noted that there have been previous efforts to provide financial support for Buncombe County community centers.

Red Oak Liaison and Discussion. Kevin Campbell and Frank Barbara reported. Discussion indicated a clear desire for the Center to identify a specific person to serve as the point person to Red Oak. In so doing, the Center would be able to improve communication with and service to an important client, as well as address matters of common interest. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to identify a point person on the SMCC Board of Directors to manage the relationship with Red Oak.**

Request for Record of Covington Donations. Amanda Barnes reported. The recent passing of Thomas Leak Covington, Jr., resulted in donations being directed to the Center in honor of his life. It was requested that a record of those donations be sent to Simmons Covington Lettre, Mr. Covington's daughter, so she might send acknowledgments. The Treasurer will take care of this.

Mini Library Announcement. Amanda reported. The mini library is up and available for use. We need to get the word out that this is available.

ORAL REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

Sandy Mush Outreach Team. Lisa Beth White reported. Her words drew upon a handout on the Sandy Mush Community Outreach Project that was distributed to those attending.

1. There is a kickoff event for the Sandy Mush Community Outreach Project scheduled for midday on Saturday, February 5th.
2. A working agreement between Big Sandy UMC and SMCC has been developed.
3. Eight additional monthly programs are to be scheduled, with the aim of establishing a community nursing program and a Service Coordinator program via the Buncombe County Council on Aging.
4. "Safe Sanctuary" is a program to protect vulnerable populations within the United Methodist Church. Rev. Lisa Beth White is pursuing training in this program, which is set in the context of faith-based programs, but the training is not faith-based. All volunteers would need to undergo a background check and participate in training to work with vulnerable populations.
5. Potential for developing a long-term program to support healthy aging-in-place in our community.

Lisa Beth noted that specific neighbors will be invited to participate.

Lisa Beth concluded by noting that a number of tables are available from a local organization that would no longer be needing them. Would the Center like them? A clear "Yes" was answer.

Capital Improvements Team. Frank B reported. Not much to report on the Food Pantry (Coal Room) Project. The water bypass of the boiler has been completed and we are now waiting for the plumbing bill.

Frank thanked Steve Duckett for reaching out to Brian Chandler of Buncombe County regarding Center work.

All of the new doors have been installed at the Center—upstairs, downstairs, and the nascent Food Pantry—and we are now waiting to complete the punch list with Asheville Windows and Doors. This should take place in early 2022.

Christopher, with reference to the handout on Coal Room Project Expenditures, noted that the reporting was a good example of how to do things.

WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

The following reports were received:

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank B expressed his thanks to the outgoing Board members. Steve did the same and followed up by discussing the recent WNC Communities event recognizing the work done by area community centers. The event was online, well run, and well attended.

Bruce followed up on Steve's comments by noting that the Center was found to be exemplary in the Mountain Laurel group in the WNC Honors program. (There are four levels in the program: Trillium, Mountain Laurel, Red Bud, and White Oak. One community center was in the Red Bud group and none in the White Oak group.) The Mountain Laurel Award received by the Center was circulated among the attendees. The Center appreciates everything that WNC Communities does to support the work of community centers, in particular the Sandy Mush Community Center.

Christopher mentioned that he and Bruce recently participated in an online session with the volunteer advisory group overseeing the Strategic Partnership Grants. This was an opportunity for the group to learn more about the Center and its activities, especially as they relate to the 2021 Strategic Partnership Grant.

Frank Ramirez drew attention to the ceiling in the sports storage room to the right of the gym stage. Some of the tiles have fallen and action might be needed.

The meeting was adjourned by Christopher at 7:20 pm.