

Sandy Mush Community Center

Minutes

February 21, 2023

Attending: Lisa Beth Ackerman, Bob Campbell, Kathleen Campbell, Gary Crossey, Steve Duckett, Joice Elam, Cheryl Frisbee, Diana Gates, Lorrie Jayne, Bruce Larson, Amy Sue Moore, Ilsa Myers, Kent Seber, Brooke Shilling, Celia Steigerwald, Betsy Weinschel, Keith Wells, Susan Wilson. Eighteen people attended.

In the absence of President Amy McMahan Surrett (illness), the meeting was called to order by Vice President Amysue Moore at 6:00 pm. Attendees briefly introduced themselves.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Minutes: The minutes for December 20, 2022 and January 17, 2023 were prepared by Secretary Bruce Larson. The Minutes were moved, seconded, and approved as submitted.

Financial Reports: The financial reports for December 2022 and January 2023 were prepared by bookkeeper Christine Magnarella Ray of Do Good Book, LLC with input from and oversight by Treasurer Bruce Larson and distributed by email. The financial reports were moved, seconded, and approved as submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

Golden Leaf Grant. Bruce reported. The Golden Leaf Grant, which seeks to complete the necessary renovations to the Coal and Boiler Room for Food Pantry use, is ready for final submission. The Project Budget was presented and discussed, along with a sketch of the rooms as renovated. Two significant items in the budget were funding for General Electrical in the Room and the purchase of a Cool Room for storing perishables, like fruits and vegetables. **It was moved, seconded, and approved that the Golden Leaf Grant should be submitted.**

While on the subject of grants, Bruce noted that proposals for Buncombe County Community Recreation Grants are due March 31st. SMCC has enjoyed success in its proposals, most recently resulting in new gym lights, a variety of recreation equipment, and the refinished gym floor. Consequently, writing a grant is desirable.

A variety of ideas were generated, and it was suggested that some of those attending gather to discuss them further. Cheryl Frisbee, Brooke Shilling, and Joice Elam indicated their interest in doing so, with the intent of bringing a recommendation to the March Community Meeting. Suggestions to consider may be sent to Bruce by email.

Strategic Planning Workshop. Bruce reported. Earlier in the year, Susan Garrett of WNC Communities reached out to the Steering Team to see if SMCC would like to participate in a Strategic Planning Pilot that it would be running this year. He distributed a one-page summary of the Desired Outcomes of such a Pilot. Discussion ensued and it soon became clear that a more authoritative and systematic presentation of the benefits and commitments of such participation was necessary, the kind that Susan Garrett would be able to provide. As a result, **it was moved, seconded, and approved that Susan Garrett be contacted by Bruce to let her know that SMCC will not be participating in the Pilot, but it would like to learn more about what would be involved, preferably by an in-person presentation by her at SMCC.**

ORAL REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

Overview of TEFAP. Bruce Reported. TEFAP is the acronym for The Emergency Food Assistance Program. MANNA has indicated that it would like the SMCC Food Pantry to participate in this Program; MANNA has also indicated that it would like its partners to provide food at least twice a month. Members of the Food Pantry Team have learned more about the Program and what it entails at two separate meetings: one a broad overview and another a TEFAP training. As a result, the Team now has a broader knowledge of the Program, how it runs, and what would be required of SMCC were to participate. *Although there is clear interest in participating in TEFAP, the Team has not yet made a decision to do so.* Since food for TEFAP must be kept separate from other food distributed by the Food Pantry, additional storage will be needed, such as the additional storage that will be available should SMCC receive the Golden Leaf grant. Decisions by Golden Leaf on current grant proposals are to be made in August.

Communications. Gary Crossey reported. He summarized some of the recent communication activities. Eblasts have been sent announcing upcoming events and Newsletters have been sent, too. The Youth Group now has its own Google account and it is being used. Nancy Jurek has updated her yoga materials on the website and calendar. Facebook promotions and pictures have been provided. Please contact Gary if you have any communication needs.

Gary asked who manages the SMCC Instagram page. Discussion yielded no clear answer. He also asked that he be placed on the monthly email calling for agenda items for community meetings, which will be done.

WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

There were no written reports and status updates.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Spring Fling will take place on Saturday, May 20th.

The Seniors Connection Luncheon will take place on Saturday, February 25th.

The next Bingo event will take place on Friday, March 3rd. About 60 people participated in the January Bingo. It was a multiage group, with parents sitting with their kids. Desserts were enjoyed by all.

The meeting was adjourned by the Vice President at 7:10 pm.