

# Sandy Mush Community Center

## Minutes

*April 18, 2023*

**Attending:** Bob Campbell, Steve Duckett, Joice Elam, Lorrie Jayne, Bruce Larson, John Loyd, Amysue Moore, Ilsa Myers, Frank Ramirez, Kent Seber, Brooke Shilling, Amy McMahan Surrett, Betsy Weinschel, Keith Wells. Fourteen people attended.

The meeting was called to order by President Amy McMahan Surrett at 6:02 pm.

### MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

**Minutes:** The minutes for March 21, 2023 were prepared by Secretary Bruce Larson. The Minutes were moved, seconded, and approved as submitted.

**Financial Reports:** The financial reports for March 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

**Certificate of Deposit.** Bruce reported. He noted that SMCC's current saving account with First Citizens only pays about 0.10% per year, whereas a 7-month Certificate of Deposit pays 4.15% per year. Given that the CD pays 40 times the interest rate per year and that the Center has no difficulty paying its bills without using its savings account, he suggested that the funds in the savings account be moved into a Certificate of Deposit. Discussion centered around whether the Center has adequate funds to pay its bills during the 7-month period and what the penalty would be for early withdrawal of funds should it be necessary. Although Bruce did not know the answer to the second question, he said he would find out. In light of the above, **it was moved, seconded, and approved to invest the funds in the savings account in a 7-month Certificate of Deposit at First Citizens Bank.**

**Cleaning Expenses.** Bruce, along with Keith Wells, reported. Weekend rentals have increased dramatically this year and it is important that weekend renters have a clean facility in which to hold their events. Toward that end, the Building Team has suggested that the gym-levels bathrooms be cleaned every Friday at the additional cost of \$50 per month. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to compensate Lora Surrett, who**

**provides cleaning services for SMCC, an extra \$50 per month, beginning this month, for Friday cleaning of gym-level bathrooms.**

**Mowing Compensation.** Keith reported. It is time to provide our mower, Steve Roberson, with a level of compensation that is more in line with the value of the services he provides. Following discussion, **it was moved, seconded, and approved to pay him \$1200 per year, beginning this year.**

**Voting Area Lighting/Cabinet for Kitchen.** Keith reported.

- Voting Area Lighting. Keith noted that there has been a request by community election officials to improve the lighting in one part of the Community Room so it would be easier to see during the voting process. Discussion ensued, with concerns being expressed about how new lights might change the look and feel of the room. There was particular interest in a hanging light that might be put in place during the election and removed after the election. Other alternatives were discussed. Mindful of these points, **it was moved, seconded, and approved that Keith obtain an estimate for alternative lighting from Grigg Electric for election purposes.**
- Cabinet for Kitchen. Keith noted that there is a need for more cabinet space in the Community Room for events that require cooking. One alternative would be to place a cabinet above the sink. As a result of this discussion, Kent Seber shared his experience with wire shelves on wheels, which are roomy and can be easily moved to other locations as needed. It was the clear sense of the room that a rolling wire shelf is the way to go. Kent will look into what's available and pricing.

**T-shirt Purchase.** Bruce, along with Frank Ramirez, reported. Our current inventory of T-shirts is largely depleted, and the Center has a new logo as well. Now is a good time to replenish the inventory with the new design. Discussion ensued, and it was asked if hats would be purchased, too, but the hats are sufficiently costly to purchase that they aren't included at this time. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to allocate \$700 for the purchase of new T-shirts.**

## **ORAL REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES**

**Building/Facility Work/Repairs.** Frank reported. The windows in the gym have been repaired, paid for by Red Oak. The gym-level water fountain will not be replaced for the time. The current fountain cannot be repaired, and replacement cost is prohibitive. Discussion ensued, noting that the two fountains in the hallway do not work, either. In

response to this, bottled water was suggested as an option. Keith also suggested that contacting Bryan Chandler of Buncombe County facilities may be a way to get at least one water fountain in working order. He will make that contact.

**Septic Field.** Steve Duckett reported. He noted that Buncombe County is working the Volunteer Fire Department in an attempt to deal with their septic field. A further consideration is the desire of the VFD to substantially expand its facility to provide enhanced service to the area, which would make even greater demands on their septic system. Steve participated in two meetings with staff from Buncombe County and representatives of the VFD, while Bruce participated in one. It is clear that everyone wants to work together. Toward this end, Buncombe County asked the Center for permission to dig some pits on grassy area to assess what needs to be done regarding the VFD septic. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to allow Buncombe County to do the necessary digging for septic field assessment.**

**Pavilion Siting Task Force.** Bruce reported. He noted that the Center's septic field is the principal factor driving the location of a pavilion. Once Buncombe County has flagged its septic field, it will be much clearer where a pavilion can go. In the course of discussion, it was noted that there is a movable pavilion on Blannahasset Island in Marshall. A movable pavilion is worthy of consideration going forward.

## **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 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Ilsa Myers expressed her appreciation for how beautifully clean the Youth Room was on Monday, a view that was expressed by others.

Ilsa noted that the Leicester Farmers Market would begin its season on Wednesday, May 3rd.

John Loyd said that the Library is looking great, with others chiming in. Brooke Shilling indicated how valuable it was to have the Library open on Mondays when the Youth Group is there.

Lisa Beth Ackerman noted that the next Seniors Connection Luncheon will take place on Saturday, March 25th; a volunteer to pick up food at Little Pigs would be greatly

appreciated. In April, the Luncheon will be on Thursday the 20th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. On that same day, the WNCCH Mobile Clinic will be in the parking lot from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Health services will be provided for all ages.

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 7:27 pm.