

Sandy Mush Community Center

Minutes

August 15, 2023

Attending: Lisa Beth Ackerman, Gary Crossey, Joice Elam, Cheryl Frisbee, Diana Gates, Bruce Larson, Ilsa Myers, Frank Ramirez, Brooke Shilling, Amy McMahan Surrect, Betsy Weinschel, Keith Wells. Twelve people attended.

The meeting was called to order by Secretary and Treasurer Bruce Larson at 6:09 pm, pending the arrival of President Amy McMahan Surrect.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Minutes: The minutes for July 18, 2023 were prepared by Secretary Bruce Larson and distributed by email. The minutes were moved, seconded, and approved as submitted.

Financial Reports: The financial reports for July 2023 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 moved, seconded, and approved as submitted.

ORAL REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

Communication Team. Gary Crossey reported. He indicated the desirability of tracking volunteer hours of the various teams and asked what the Board thought. Keith Wells noted that volunteer hours were once tracked and could be used as an indicator of activity. Such information could be of use to help volunteers see the commitment involved in various activities.

Gary noted that youth programs might develop their own photos of their activities, an idea that was supported by others. He also suggested that events provide a good opportunity for participants to take photos and share their experiences.

Gary distributed a summary of the recent activity of the newsletter. Approximately 400 people receive each distribution of the eNewsletter. During the last 18 distributions, open rates—how many people actually open the eNewsletter they receive—have increased from 34.5% in August 2021 to 48.7% in August 2023, showing a fairly continuous increase during that time; the last four distributions averaged an open rate of 50.2%. He provided cost estimates of email versus print distribution of the Newsletter.

Further discussion of SMCC events included the possible use of an electronic road sign (possibly with solar power), the distribution of flyers within the building for users, and the parsing of distribution list. How might we reach out to community member not currently coming to the Center?

WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

Youth Report

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joice Elam and Steve Lund will provide coffee for the vendors of the Come to Leicester event at SMCC on Saturday morning of the Tour (August 19th).

A hose is needed to facilitate water play. Keith will look into it.

Lisa Beth Ackerman noted that there will be no Senior Lunch in August; lunches will be held on September 16 and October 21. She also noted that she has been contacted regarding providing health services on Food Pantry Fridays. She would like someone on the FP Team as a contact. It was noted that Brandee Boggs was the logical person.

Bruce noted, via email from Dave Everett, that the road sign needs work. Dave will be contacted about what kind of work is needed.

As noted in the July Minutes, a report on the SMCC logo is expected at the September Community Meeting.

Three upcoming events were noted: Haunted House, Trunk or Treat, and Chili Dinner.

MIDYEAR DISCUSSION

The discussion of the developed "Should Do" list from the July Community Meeting continued, with a grouped list distributed. Suggestions were received for some additional items, which will be added to the list. Given the suggestions, it was determined that the next step forward would be to form a work group willing to review the list and prioritize its items, with an eye toward where we have tools and where we don't, and funds needed. What items do we have the capacity to do?

The following people volunteered to serve on the workgroup: Lisa Beth Ackerman, Gary Crossey, Joice Elam, Cheryl Frisbee, and Frank Ramirez.

Related to the above, Ilsa Myers indicated that there was presently energy of a Family Night at the Center. She will discuss this with John Loyd of the Events Team. Somewhat related, the possibility of an open mic night was raised.

The meeting was adjourned by President Amy McMahan Surrett at 7:35 pm.