

Sandy Mush Community Center

Minutes

November 21, 2023

Attending: Peggy Baldwin, Gary Crossey, Joice Elam, Cheryl Frisbee, Bruce Larson, John Loyd, Amysue Moore, Ilsa Myers, Frank Ramirez, Amy McMahan Surrett, Betsy Weinschel, Keith Wells. Twelve people attended.

The meeting was called to order by President Amy McMahan Surrett at 6:07.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Minutes: The minutes for October 17, 2023 were prepared by Secretary Bruce Larson and distributed by email. A minor edit was made to the Minutes, which were then moved, seconded, and approved.

Financial Reports: The financial reports for October 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.

SMCC's 7-month Certificate of Deposit. It is desirable to roll-over the CD into a one-year CD as that would allow for a full year of interest in the 2024 budget. As of one week ago, the relevant interest rate was 5% per year. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to roll-over the CD into a one-year CD.**

NEW BUSINESS

Mailing Address. Bruce reported. As previously noted, the Leicester Post Office has more than doubled the price of SMCC's current box. Although that increase can be somewhat reduced by renting a smaller box, it seems like this is now the time for the Center to purchase and install a lockable mailbox at the Center's physical address. Such a mailbox has been identified and shared with the Board. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to purchase a lockable mailbox for the Center.** Bruce will purchase and install the mailbox.

ORAL REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

Communication Team Update. Gary Crossey reported. He noted that the Center received an award from Google for its website traffic.

Gary summarized recent website traffic as well as Facebook traffic. During the May-October period, the SMCC logo was downloaded approximately five times per day. The SMCC Facebook page now has 1.1 thousand followers and has received 1 thousand likes.

The latest online Newsletter was received by 398 people and opened by 214 recipients, which demonstrates that there is interest in its content and the current Newsletter format is working.

On the website, a new About page has been refreshed and updated by Betsy Weinschel and the posted Minutes have been made searchable. This project is ongoing.

The website information on Supporting Families will be updated soon.

Nomination Committee Nominees. Cheryl Frisbee and John Loyd reported.

- New Board nominees were: Shelley Baldwin and Elise Rider. Board members serve three-year terms.
- Officer nominees were: President, Ilsa Myers; Vice President, Frank Ramirez; Secretary, Betsy Weinschel; and Treasurer, Bruce Larson. Officers typically serve two-year terms.

There were no other nominees. **The report on the nominees was moved, seconded, and approved.** The election of nominees will take place at the December Community Meeting.

Budget 2024 Update. Bruce reported. He distributed a Draft Budget update in light of discussion at the October Community Meeting and further consideration, discussing the specific items that had undergone changes and the reasons for the changes. A final budget will be put forward for adoption in December.

DISCUSSION

In light of time limitations, the discussion of the Should Do List was postponed until a later Community Meeting.

WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

Food Pantry Report

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Frank Ramirez noted that some work needs to be done on the road sign so it will be easier to use. Some of this work is underway.

Amy expressed her gratitude to all concerned for how thoroughly she has been supported during her time as SMCC president.

Cheryl expressed her appreciation to Buncombe County for the new water fountain that is fully installed and working in the gym.

The meeting was adjourned by President Amy McMahan Surrett at 7:26 pm.