

**Sandy Mush Community Center
Community Meeting
Agenda**

Tuesday October 17, 2023

Call to order- President Amy Surrett (6:00pm)

Minutes and Financial Reports 10 Minutes:

Minutes -Bruce Larson (5 Minutes)

Financial Reports - Bruce Larson (5 Minutes)

Oral Reports/ Statues Reports

Update Should Do -Bruce Larson (10 Minutes)

Draft Budget 2024- Bruce Larson (10 Minutes)

Board Nominations- Nomination Team (10 Minutes)

Gold Leaf Grant- Bruce Larson (10 Minutes)

Annual Honors Award Attendees- Bruce Larson (5 Minutes)

Written Reports:

Food Pantry:

Adjournment - President 6:55pm

Food Pantry Report

October 2023

The Food Pantry provides food to the Sandy Mush community on the second Friday of every month from 9:30 to 11:00 am. There are approximately 15 volunteers who participate during the week of the Food Pantry. Some order food, some pick up food from MANNA and Full Sun Farms (and pet food from the Asheville Humane Society), some unload and store food, some pack food boxes of nonperishables and bags of perishables, and some distribute the food on Food Pantry Fridays. In addition there are others who interface with MANNA, write grants, and write Thank-You letters.

Food Pantry food primarily comes from MANNA and Full Sun Farms; generous grants from Food Lion have helped provide bread, milk, and eggs as needed. The funds for purchasing food come from individuals, churches, and granting organizations that are specifically designated for the Food Pantry. We are grateful for the generosity of those who enable the Food Pantry to provide food.

During the first ten months of 2023, the Food Pantry has served 692 households (families) comprising 2385 individuals, with an average of 69.2 households per month and an average of 238.5 individuals per month. These numbers are down, slightly, from 2022, which is likely due to a decrease in area unemployment rates. Typically, the number of neighbors making use of the Food Pantry increases during the months of November and December.

Earlier this year the Food Pantry, under the leadership of Peggy Baldwin, received a Golden LEAF Foundation grant in the amount of \$26,324 to finish renovating the Coal Room for Food Pantry use. Initial work subsequent to the grant award has been completed and approved. As a result, we are now ready to begin procurement of the items requested in the grant. Golden LEAF releases funds upon completion, submission, and approval of each purchase; it does not release all of the funds at one time. Consequently, the next step in the process for the Food Pantry is to begin completing the relevant procurement forms.

Bruce Larson for the Food Pantry Team

Mid-Year Check-In (July 18, 2023)

What should we do? (Grouped) Updated 8/24/23 Revised 9/21/2023

Newly Revised 10/16/2023 **FINAL 10/17/2023**

The Sandy Mush Community Center is a charitable 501(c)(3) organized for the benefit of the Sandy Mush community with a focus on, but not limited to, these purposes:

- Strengthen the sense of community and awareness of community history and its agricultural heritage.
- Increase educational and health and wellness opportunities.
- Increase preservation efforts, including the historic Sandy Mush School and grounds.
- Strengthen and support community organizations.

Teams

- Review teams needed for programs/activities and develop/publicize information about them
- Improve communication among the Board and Teams, including periodic Team reports to the Board as appropriate

Volunteers

- Recognize volunteers and publicize volunteer opportunities
- Develop a volunteer retention program
- Hold an annual Volunteer Appreciation event

Events and Family Activities

- Encourage Board attendance and participation
- Offer chess and other youth/adult activities, e.g., board games
- Consider: family movie night; family activity night; open mic night
- Hold a fall community gathering, e.g., a Heritage Day/Open House

Health and Wellness

- Identify potential H&W activities and their schedules, e.g., pickleball, exercise classes

Service

- Think outside the building, for example, stream clean up and road-side pick up
- Hold a rabies clinic/spay-neuter clinic (Appalachian Animal Hospital)
- Host the Dental bus at the Center (NC Baptist Men)

Activities

- Clean out and organize the Principal's Office and the rooms on either side of the stage
- Unpack, assess, and locate Welcome Table donations
- Create space and locate materials of the Community Recreation Grant
- Record SMCC activities for posterity
- Review Bylaws in relation to Board and Officer Terms
- Conduct a community needs assessment

Communication

- Publicize events such as the mobile health clinic and the farm/heritage work of the Center
- Provide some paper distribution of Newsletter

Building

- Install a bulletin board with suggestion box in the gym
- Provide contact information on bulletin board
- Provide a phone—internet based—for safety
- Encourage cleaning/tidying after building use (signage)
- Inform people about Buncombe County dog rules (signage)
- Investigate requirements for a commercial kitchen on the gym level
- Investigate alternative locking systems for the building
- Develop the Health and Wellness Room for additional activities
- Develop the third floor of the Center

Grounds

- Develop a new site plan

Staffing

- Consider hiring a staff person
- Consider hiring a grants writer