

**Sandy Mush Community Center  
Community Meeting**

**Agenda**

Tuesday March 19, 2024

**Call to order - Ilsa Myers, President (6:00pm)**

**Minutes and Financial Reports: 10 Minutes**

Minutes - Betsy Weinschel, Secretary (5 minutes)

Financial Reports - Bruce Larson, Treasurer (5 minutes)

**New Business: 30 Minutes**

Strategic Planning Team - Gary Crossey (15 minutes)

Buncombe County Community Recreation Grant - Bruce Larson (10 minutes)

Proposed Meeting with Neighbors on future Coal Room usage - Ilsa Myers (5 minutes)

**Oral Reports and Status Updates: (30 Minutes)**

Communication Team Update - Gary Crossey (10 minutes)

Events Team - TBD (5 minutes)

Spring Fling Update - Frank Ramirez (10 minutes)

Garden Project - Kent Seber (5 minutes)

**Written Reports: (5 minutes)**

Food Pantry Team - Bruce Larson

Youth Team - Cheryl Frisbee

**Community Announcements and Open Discussion: (15 Minutes)**

**Adjournment - Ilsa Myers, President (7:30 pm)**

## **Food Pantry Report**

*March 2024*

At the March food distribution, 87 households representing 259 individuals were served. Real hams were distributed to all those who wanted them through the generosity of the Merrie Mountain Rug Hookers; some households chose other meat alternatives. Thank you MMRH!

In the first quarter of 2024, the Food Pantry has served 230 households representing 675 individuals; during the first quarter of 2023, 203 households representing 508 individuals were served. So, 13% more households representing 33% more individuals were served in 2024 than in 2023. The next food distribution is Friday, April 12th.

On February 28th, Peggy Baldwin submitted a grant proposal for \$3,600 to Food Lion Feeds, as approved by the Board at the February Community Meeting. It is unclear at this time when award notification will be received.

Following the March Food Pantry distribution, members of the Food Pantry Team met to discuss various matters. Those attending were: Peggy Baldwin, Brandee Boggs, Bruce Larson, Jean Larson, and Betsy Weinschel. Among matters discussed were Food Pantry statistics, grants, and the Coal Room Project, which connects to the Golden Leaf Grant, TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program), and a second food distribution each month. (Manna partners, which we are, are supposed to provide two food distributions per month.) In looking at food distributions by other area groups, it appears that the fourth week of the month, perhaps on a Friday, seems like a good possibility. In discussion about moving forward with the Coal Room Project, it was agreed that "The Food Pantry has no intention of blocking the right of way for its purposes."

Peggy noted that it might be useful for some Food Pantry volunteers who work during the run-up to the Friday food distributions take part in the Friday distributions, so they might have a more comprehensive experience and understanding of the Food Pantry. On another matter, Brandee said she would develop an information sheet on area food distributions to be shared with our Food Pantry neighbors. Betsy and Peggy will provide her with relevant information.

*Bruce Larson for the Food Pantry Team*

# Smcc Youth Update:

- Mouse problem has been remedied for the most part. Youth purchased Tupperware to store some classroom materials, classroom has been cleaned, and 2 new rugs were purchased and placed in classroom. Very thankful for all the volunteers who worked together to make this happen.
- Spring Fling planning parents meeting is Monday, March 25th to go over volunteering opportunities, planning, organization, supplies we may need for craft and/or activities, and science fair. We also briefly will go over teams and Welcome Letter.
- Homeschool Group has started off strong with the Science Unit and sign ups and supplies have been passed out for participants. Thank you Brooke for all your hard work!
- Sarah Wood is hosting a STEM Science program for Homeschool Group on Tuesday, March 26th from 10:30-12pm and will be utilizing our new tv! Thanks Bruce so much for getting this ready for us.
- Arts and Crafts Group has been moved to the second Tuesday of the month, but took a break during the month of March and plans to commence in April and/or May.
- Bruce moved the piano to the stage and Keith reported pianos worth. We are hopeful to organize and clean the ballroom up this Spring.
- Bruce replaced the ping pong table net as well.