

# Sandy Mush Community Center

## Minutes

*March 19, 2024*

**Attending:** Shelley Baldwin, Cheryl Frisbee, Lorrie Jayne, Bruce Larson, Ilsa Myers, Frank Ramirez, Elizabeth Weinschel, Gary Crossey, Bob and Kathleen Campbell, Tina Gustavasson, and Brownyn Blenn. Thirteen people attended.

The meeting was called to order by President Ilsa Myers at 6:00 pm.

### MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

**Minutes:** The minutes for February 20, 2025, were prepared by Secretary Betsy Weinschel. A brief discussion over placement and wording took place. They were then moved, seconded, and approved as submitted.

**Financial Reports:** The financial reports for February 2024 were prepared by Treasurer Bruce Larson. All the financial reports and operating budgets were moved, seconded and approved as submitted.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Gary Crossey, Strategic Planning team** – Gary presented a questionnaire of survey questions to ask the community. Several suggestions were made.

Question 1 – do not limit the questions to Buncombe county use the “Sandy Mush area” instead.

Question 2 – Word the question to attract more children in order to perpetuate programs

Question 3 – Use wording “Senior Citizen” not retired adult

Question 4 – Spring Fling is May 18 not March 18, Add rentals available to special events

Question 5 – Book Club date third Thursday of month, Sunday Senior luncheon all are welcome once a month on a Saturday, Fiber Friends fourth Tuesday of the month.

Confirm SMCC Board meetings third Tuesday of the month. Maybe omit question 5

Question 6 – separate item 3 into 2 lines

Children’s Program Playgroup and home schooler group

All ages Arts and Crafts

Question 9 – change “not interested” to “unavailable”

Question 13 – change “phone call” to “phone call or text”  
Change “Ad on the sign” to “Ad on the road sign...”

**Buncombe County Community Recreation Grant** – Bruce Larson explained what the community center received in last year’s grant, mainly the television and the tents. This year it was suggested to install better lighting for the stage. Bruce met with Steve Grigg of Grigg Electric.

- 1) Between the back stage curtain and the front stage curtain 3 LED lights will be installed. The lights are capable of changing colors and are able to be controllable by a phone app.
- 2) 2 spotlights at the front of the stage on either side of the arch

A total of 5 lights are proposed

**Coal Room meeting with neighbors** – A meeting has been scheduled for March 26 at 5 pm with concerned neighbors. Ilsa Myers, Bruce Larson, Frank Ramirez, Elizabeth Weinschel, and Brandee Boggs will be attending. Kathleen Campbell made a point of the neighbors ROW concerns are and continue to be a “perennial problem”.

## Oral Reports and Status Updates

**Communication Team** – Gary Crossey spoke of featuring a volunteer in the newsletter. Seeing pictures of individuals with names as newsworthy features adding what inspires their volunteering, personal interest stories. He also spoke of the upcoming survey newsletter.

Additionally, to communication team members, in order to reserve time for our monthly meetup, please contact us at the email address. Be aware that each booking is limited to 15 minutes, and only 4 slots are available per month, as per policy announced October 2023. Contact: [admin@sandymushcommunitycenter.org](mailto:admin@sandymushcommunitycenter.org)

**Events Team** – Shelley Baldwin spoke about the marvelous success of BINGO! BINGO is a great event to bring families together as all ages can participate. Tina remarked it’s her family’s favorite event. The potlucks have been epic and the game is completely inclusive. BINGO is intergenerational and builds connections. Everyone remembers how calling “BINGO” is great fun!

It was suggested that we might be able to start BINGO earlier in the fall before October. We may need more volunteers to start earlier. It was also suggested to call out the names of the winners.

**SPRING FLING Update – May 18, 11-3** Frank Ramirez told us the Kona Ice truck had been in contact wanting to be a vendor at our Spring Fling. A discussion began about the price of the ice cones at \$5.00 for one cup. Given that we are focusing on fundraising for our community center, it was decided that this expense would take away from the children's bake sale, Grateful Roots and other local vendors that are part of our community. It was also noted the SMCC now has a temporary vendor license to sell our prepared food and no longer needs to depend on donations for the community center prepared food. We are hopeful we can include Kona Ice for future events.

Other activities suggested were and mentioned: Children's obstacle course, corn hole, more adult activities.

**Garden Project** – Although Kent was unable to attend, the garden project was discussed by Frank Ramirez in his absence. The best place seems to be in the circle around the flagpole since our only outside water hose connection is located nearby. It was suggested to enlarge the circle with more plants to be planted in the now grassy areas.

## Written Reports

**Food Pantry Report – Bruce Larson** Food Pantry is the second Friday of each month. March served 87 households comprising 259 individuals. February served 83 households comprising 238 individuals. Real hams were distributed to those who wanted them through a generous donation from Merrie Mountain Rug Hookers.

In the first quarter of 2024 the pantry served 230 households representing 675 individuals. This is 13% more household representing 33% more individuals than the first quarter of 2023. Next pantry is April 12<sup>th</sup>.

A brief meeting was held after pantry. The discussion involved the coal room use, the statistics of people served, the Food Lion Feeds grant Peggy submitted, TEFAP, and it was hardily agreed that the food pantry has no intention of blocking the easement when making use of the coal room. Peggy suggested the volunteers might rotate jobs to learn all the aspects of distribution. Brandee wants to have a list of all local food pantries that we can make available to our clients.

**Youth update – Cheryl Frisbee** listed updates on the mouse problem, volunteering and organizing for Spring Fling, the homeschool Group Science program, a STEM science program for homeschoolers will be March 26 10:30 -12pm with the new tv, Arts and Crafts has been moved to the second Tuesday of the month and will start again in April and/or May, the piano is moved and the ping pong net has been replaced.

## Community announcements and public comment

Cheryl was asked about the rules proposed for the playgroup. She is handing them out next Monday.

A phone for the library was discussed for Joice to use and other volunteers to use when volunteering in the library. The phone is for safety and security.

The principal's desk in the locked officed was discussed as to where to put it.

**Adjournment - Ilsa Myers, 7:25**