



Sandy Mush Community Center

P.O. Box 1686, Leicester, NC 28748

sandymushcommunitycenter.org

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Sandy Mush Community Center

Minutes

February 17, 2020

Attending: Peggy Baldwin, Frank Barbara, Jean Barbara, Amanda Barnes, Mason Barnes, Kevin Campbell, Gary Crossey, Al Davis, Kurt Eckel, Lynda Emashowski, Vance Garrett, Christopher Jayne, Bruce Larson, Don Myers, Frank Ramirez, Deni Surret, Betsy Weinschel, Barbara Wells, Keith Wells, Susan Wilson. *Twenty people attended the meeting.*

The meeting was called to order by President Christopher Jayne at 7:03 pm. He noted that Mark Diaz had resigned as Treasurer and from the SMCC Board of Directors. He thanked Mark for his service to the Sandy Mush Community as a member of the Board of Directors, most recently as its Treasurer, and for his contributions to the development and oversight of the Center's Internet access.

Christopher reordered the Agenda to discuss the Treasurer Position. He read from Article II, sections 1 and 2, of the SMCC By-Laws, which deal with Membership and Voting Rights. He then asked if there were any questions about what he had read. There was a question about what time period the expression "annually attended" referred. Kurt Eckel noted that it was generally accepted that 'annually' referred to the calendar year, that is, January 1st through December 31st. It was noted that some aspects of the By-Laws are open to interpretation and might need attention.

At this point it was moved, seconded, and approved that Bruce Larson serve as Treasurer for the remainder of the year. Bruce is now the SMCC Treasurer.

Now, the officers of the Board of Directors are:

- President, Christopher Jayne
- Vice President, Vanessa Campbell
- Treasurer, Bruce Larson
- Secretary, Bruce Larson

The most recent officers of the Board were:

- President, Christopher Jayne
- Vice President, Vanessa Campbell
- Treasurer, Mark Diaz
- Secretary, Bruce Larson

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Minutes. The January Minutes were prepared by Secretary Bruce Larson and distributed by email. **The Minutes were approved as submitted.**

Financial Reports. Treasurer Bruce Larson reported. He summarized the January Operating Profit & Loss statement, pointing out some of the features of the new format developed by Bookkeeper Christine Magnarella-Ray and former Treasurer Mark Diaz, noting in particular the columns **Actual**, **Budget**, and **% of Budget** which provide additional perspective. During January, Total Income was \$2,270.40 and Total Expense was \$1,845.89; Net Income was \$424.51. It was pointed out that Income, Expense, and Net Income vary greatly from month to month. **The Report was approved as submitted.**

Bruce went on to note that:

- In February, the Center receive the second half of the Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant--\$17,979—and the entire Buncombe County Recreation Grant--\$6,000.
- He is in possession of the Center's credit card. Please contact him if you need to use it.
- The financial results of the November Dinner Dance, as developed by Mark, are in. The Net Income of the event was \$4,641.79. Bruce noted that the Net Income was somewhat lower than that obtained in 2017 and 2018. It was suggested that lower sponsorship receipts contributed to that outcome. Peggy Baldwin asked if all of the sponsor pledges had been received but Bruce didn't know the answer. He will look into it with Peggy's help.

Christopher asked for a report on the 2nd Annual Family Dinner. Bruce noted that there were 70-80 people in attendance, enjoying the food, community, and the Silent Auction. Financially, the Silent Auction took in \$787, with an additional \$80 from the sale of hats and t-shirts. There were three Supporting Family donations totaling \$380.

While on the subject of dinners, Kurt related a recent conversation with the Center's insurance agent. It turns out that there are different categories, and thus premiums, for organizations that charge or do not charge for dinners. This is something to consider as the Center prepares for some of its upcoming events. To maintain the Center's current insurance status, terminology like "Suggestion Donation" might be used for meals.

Other groups that use the Center, for example a renter, could still charge for a meal—the onus would be on them to meet applicable requirements.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Retreat. Kurt reported. He reviewed recent work toward a retreat for the Board of Directors, noting that he and John Loyd recommended hiring Greg Walker Wilson to conduct the retreat for a cost in the neighborhood of \$2,000. He noted that this would enable the Board to get better organized about its work and meet its responsibilities. In addition to the retreat, Wilson will interview Board members and key team leaders—up to 12 people all together—and make recommendations. The criteria for determining key leaders have not been established. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to hire Greg Walker Wilson to lead the Board Retreat and conduct interviews.**

Kurt noted that the retreat is the start of a process, not its end. The timing of the retreat is to be determined.

Capital Improvement Team Report. Kurt reported. Architect George Stowe has completed most of his work. The only remaining issue is the configuration of the ramp on the east side of the building, which is dependent on the landscape development plan. The revised Safety Plan he developed has been submitted to Buncombe County.

Kurt discussed the Capital Improvement Team Report that appeared on the back side of the Agenda. The Report recommends “upgrading the electric service in the building from 200 to 400 amp service at a cost of \$16,975. The current load of the building exceeds 200 amps and prevents adding appliance while creating a safety issue.”

In light of the Strategic Partnership Grant amount—\$35,958—and considering other commitments—\$11,500—that leaves a remaining balance of \$7,438 after the electric service upgrade. Although the Team has identified additional projects worth pursuing, it is not making recommendations at this time in light of the recently submitted 2020-2021 Buncombe Country Strategic Partnership Grant.

Al Davis asked about the process for identifying contractor bids. It was noted that three contractors had been contacted. The Center has had a good relationship with Steve Grigg of Grigg Electric Company. Having done previous work for the Center, Grigg Electric knows the building well.

Susan Wilson asked about heating sufficiency in the Yoga and Youth rooms; upgrading heat in the Yoga and children’s room is one of the additional projects worth pursuing. Frank Barbara shared his knowledge, which is based upon his conversation with heating contractor Ken Sanders. Given the volume of the rooms, the height of their ceilings, and their current heating equipment, there is not sufficient capacity to heat the Yoga and Youth rooms.

There being no further discussion, **it was moved, seconded, and approved to proceed with the electrical upgrade.**

Come to Leicester Sponsorship. Peggy reported. The annual Come to Leicester Artist Studio Tour takes place the third weekend of August. Since many members of the community have studios that participate in the tour, it seems appropriate for the Center to be a sponsor of it. Christopher recommended that the Center sponsor the tour at the Gold level for \$150. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to sponsor the Come to Leicester Artist Studio tour at the Gold level.**

ORAL REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

Sandy Mush History Project. Amanda Barnes reported. The most recent meeting took place on February 3rd, with 13 in attendance. The Project has decided on boundaries for “The Big Sandy Mush Valley” to organize their work, as well as to gather information road-by-road. The History group gathers the first Monday of each month in the SMCC Library at 6 pm. “Everyone is welcome to come and dig into our history with us.”

Supporting Families. Bruce reported. Supporting Family letters were sent out in early February, prior to the Annual Family Dinner. To date, 19 families have replied, with \$3,020 received. The budget goal for the year is \$4,000.

Downstairs Kitchen. Kevin Campbell and Jean Barbara reported. The kitchen project is well underway with completion expected by the end of March. The stainless-steel worktable will be modified to add casters to provide more flexible kitchen use.

Jean noted the need for a coffee pot with an automatic turnoff for safety reasons. She mentioned that the Board will need to consider funding a backsplash. The kitchen renovation budget did not include a backsplash since the grant received from the Community Foundation was smaller than requested.

Spring Fling. Frank Ramirez reported. Planning for the event is underway. It is expected that the event will share many similarities with those of past years.

SMCC Strategic Partnership Grant. Christopher reported. The 2020-2021 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant was submitted by the February 14th deadline. He spoke briefly about some of the features of the County’s new grant assessment method. It will involve nine people, with three from each of the three Commissioner Districts.

The grant requests \$8,000 for Internet, \$27,500 for exterior ramps and steps, \$6,500 for on-demand hot water heaters, and heating upgrades, and \$11,500 for a very large fan, including installation, for the gym.

Christopher received a round of applause for his work.

WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

The following reports were received:

- Board Retreat—John Loyd and Kurt Eckel
- Capital Improvement Team Report—The Capital Improvement Team
- Come to Leicester Sponsorship Level—Peggy Baldwin
- SMCC Food Pantry Report—Jean Barbara
- SMCC Volunteers—John Loyd
- Youth Report—Peggy Baldwin
- Literature and Line—Peggy Baldwin
- 4-H Report and Calendar—Jacki Gillespie

Bruce drew attention to the 4-H Report on the last page of the Agenda.

Kurt asked Christopher for an update on the site plan provided for in the 2019-2020 Strategic Partnership Grant. Christopher will contact the landscape architect with whom he has worked. The site plan is needed in a timely way in order to proceed with the ramp on the east side of the building. Topographic maps would be useful in this work and might be paid for with funds from the Outdoor Recreation Team. If necessary, action on proceeding might be done by email as provided by the By-Laws.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Lynda Emashowski noted that voting takes place at the Center and asked about Center policies relating to political signs. It was acknowledged that this is an important question but that it was hard to point to a specific provision in the By-Laws relating to them.

Amanda raised a question on behalf of LuEllen Epstein, who was not present. At the December Board of Directors meeting the use of Voice Over Internet Protocol was said to be a way to provide phones on the ground and first floors of the Center. What progress has been made on this? Christopher will check in with Mark Diaz on the matter.

Kevin noted the presence of Gary Crossey at the meeting. Gary has professional knowledge about the Internet and the software needed to use it effectively. Gary is willing to provide training opportunities on the website and related tools. Peggy will reach out to Vanessa Campbell regarding this.

Peggy asked to whom she should address specific building concerns, for example, a light bulb that needs changing. The head of the Building Team, Keith Wells, is the go-to person.

As announcements concluded, it was noted that the monthly meetings of the Sandy Mush History Project take place on the same night as 4-H, but in different parts of the building.

The meeting was adjourned by Christopher at 8:38 pm.