

Sandy Mush Community Center

Minutes

August 13, 2018

Attending: Martha Ball, Kevin Campbell, Donna Diaz, Mark Diaz, Erin Duckett, Kurt Eckel, Dave Everett, Vance Garrett, Jackie Gillespie, John Gavin, Ruth Gavin, Christopher Jayne, Bruce Larson, Glenn Ratcliff, Betsy Weinschel, Barbara Wells, Keith Wells, Terri Wells

The meeting was called to order by President Keith Wells at 7:00 pm.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

Financial Reports. The July Financial Reports were prepared by Treasurer Erin Duckett and distributed by email. **The Financial Reports were approved as submitted.**

Erin reported that a donation has been received using the PayPal button on the Sandy Mush Community Center webpage. During July, Total Income was \$1,999 and Total Expense was \$991, resulting in a Net Income of \$1,008.

NEW BUSINESS

Building. Kurt Eckel reported. He brought attendees up to date on renovation of the top floor of the Center, especially as it relates to the grant recently received from Buncombe County. Although the Center was once told that a building elevator would not be needed to proceed with top floor renovations, that is no longer the case. We were recently informed by Bob Haynes, subsequent to an examination by a field inspector, that the Center is a three-story building and must have an elevator if the top floor is to be used. Although further exploration is underway, including contact with an architect about options, the Center will not be moving forward with the renovation of the top floor.

Dave Everett expanded upon the last point in Kurt's report. Given that work will not now be done on the top floor, the primary objective of which was to provide a dedicated room for 4-H, how do we work to meet our commitment to the group? He noted that there is a lot that can be done to upgrade the basement of the Center and meet some of the needs of 4-H. Doing that will require input from anyone and everyone—all ideas are welcome.

Jackie Gillespie, the 4-H leader, noted that approximately 60 youth meet in 4-H. One of the reasons for wanting to have a dedicated room was to avoid the repeated set up and take down of materials for meetings, which usually meant hauling materials to and from the building, too. If storage space was provided in the basement, that would ease matters somewhat.

John Gavin expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Building Committee to explore how to provide space for 4-H. At the end of the year, we do want to be able to report to Buncombe County that the grant made a positive impact.

In light of the elevator issue, Christopher Jayne suggested that it would be good to get a ballpark estimate on an elevator that would be consistent with the expectations of Buncombe County. He agreed that there is a lot that can be done to improve the basement floor.

Picking up on Dave's request for input, Terri Wells suggested that the Building Committee meet with 4-H to see what will work for them, that is, how to meet their needs going forward. Kurt said that seemed like a good next step. Jackie then spoke briefly about some of the things that are needed for the 4-H group.

Buncombe County Community and Rural Development Grant. Bruce reported. He summarized the items that had been identified for the grant: six chairs, math curriculum, and a diaper-changing table. These items emerged from a call for input by Peggy Baldwin. He noted that security cameras has also been indicated as a possibility, but no specific recommendation had been made. Mark Diaz mentioned that he had found a system in the \$700-\$800 range, without installation.

Regarding a security system with video, Dave asked about the legal standing of such video. He noted that we need a clear standing of this before we proceed. Keith indicated that he would contact the County Sheriff for more information. In light of this conversation, it was decided to hold off on security cameras until questions about legal standing could be answered.

There being no additional suggestions for the grant, it will be sent forward with the items indicated.

ORAL REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

December Dance. Martha Ball reported. She directed attendees to the December Benefit Update in the Written Reports, which includes the particulars of the Dance, which will take place on December 1st, with dinner from 5:30 to 7:30 and dance with the Stoney Creek Boys from 7:00 to 9:00. Volunteers are needed for a range of activities.

Request. Betsy Weinschel reported. She would like to make available time at the Center for yoga instructor Nancy Jurek to pursue her online studies of Ayurvedic yoga on various Wednesdays from 7 to 9:30 pm. The Board encouraged Betsy to "Go for it!"

Updates. Terri reported.

- Skyrunner Internet service is now available from Beaverdam with line-of-sight service. It will be coming to Early's Mountain, too.
- The monies for the Buncombe County grant will be received in one lump sum rather than distributed over time. Rachael Nygaard, the County's Director of Strategic Partnerships, wants to come to the Center for a tour.
- Vono Freeman has offered to do a concert on some upcoming Friday. Betsy will handle arrangements.
- The playground is going well. Buncombe County has done a good job inspecting the structures and Vance has been doing regular inspections, too.
- Sandy Mush history gatherings continue of the first Monday of the month at 6 pm. The gatherings are informal—no lectures. In relation to this, Vance is working on a project involving Sandy Mush veterans. He recently met with a 90-year veteran who would like to see some type of commemoration of veterans in the Center.

Vance went on to discuss the scope of his project. It was thought that it would probably be good to focus initially on veterans from Big Sandy now, with the possibility of expanding later on.

Volunteer Dinner. Bruce reported for John Loyd. He read a message from John, reminding attendees of the upcoming volunteer dinner on September 22nd, as well as the need for team leaders to re-invite their volunteers and to contact John. In addition, it was asked if there was interest in some sort of program for the event. The sense of the group was that people would simply enjoy being with one another and that a program wasn't needed. It was thought, however, that there might be some interest in there being an opportunity for teams to share a bit about their work.

Team Descriptions. Bruce reported. He shared a compilation of team descriptions that he received from the teams of the Center, indicating that there had been no attempt to place them into a common format. Upon asking if there were any teams missing from the compilation, an Events Team and the Development Team were mentioned.

WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

In an update to the written Food Pantry report, it was mentioned that the Food Pantry for August would take place on Friday the 17th.

Regarding the written WNC Communities Honors Award, it was requested that information on volunteer hours for each team be submitted to Erin for the last year, that is, from August 2017 through July 2016. This is part of the Center's report for the Honors Award. Dave noted, with regard to trash pick-up days, we are likely undercounting the number of volunteer hours.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Wells called attention to the Fish Fry on Saturday the 18th at the Sandy Mush Methodist Church, which will take place from 11 am to 2 pm. Be sure to come early so as not to miss out on the good food.

John talked about the entertainment he helped provide at the July 4th event. People clearly enjoyed it. He thought that it might be desirable, next year, to start the event a little later so there is less of a gap between dinner and the entertainment.

The meeting was adjourned by Keith at 8:08 pm.