

Sandy Mush Community Center

Minutes

December 17, 2018

Attending: Peggy Baldwin, Frank Barbara, Jean Barbara, Bob Campbell, Kevin Campbell, Vanessa Campbell, Donna Diaz, Mark Diaz, Erin Duckett, Kurt Eckel, Lynda Emashowski, LuEllen Epstein, Dave Everett, Kim Everett, Vance Garrett, Rae Hearne, Christopher Jayne, Bruce Larson, John Loyd, Deni Surrect, Barbara Vassallo, Betsy Weinschel, Barbara Wells, Keith Wells, Terri Wells, Craig Worley. *Twenty-six people attended the meeting.*

The meeting was called to order by President Keith Wells at 7:07 pm.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

Financial Reports. The November Financial Reports were prepared by Treasurer Erin Duckett and distributed by email. During November, Total Income was \$4,971, and Total Expense was \$3,213 resulting in a Net Income of \$1,758. **The Financial Reports were approved as submitted.**

Erin noted that the BOD met from 6 to 7 pm to discuss the 2019 SMCC Operating Budget. Some small revisions were made to the draft Budget and it was approved by them as amended.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee Report and Election. Dave Everett reported. At the November BOD meeting the Committee submitted a report in which three new BOD members were nominated—Bob Campbell, John Loyd, and Lynette “Deni” Surrect. In addition, Christopher Jayne was put forward for President and Vanessa Campbell for Vice President. Dave spoke briefly about the qualifications and experiences of each candidate. There being no additional nominations for these positions, all nominees were approved for their respective roles.

Terri Wells noted that the President and Vice President, as officers of the BOD, serve two-year terms.

Christopher Jayne thanked outgoing President Keith Wells and outgoing BOD members Peggy Baldwin and Dave Everett for their service to the Center. General applause ensued.

Building Team Report. Kurt Eckel reported. An update on the top-floor project was given in light of a meeting with the architect was given. As has been previously noted, handrails, propane heaters, and egress doors have been identified as requirements for moving forward. The architect suggested that the existing handrails be fixed.

The propane heaters on the ground floor are of particular importance because unvented propane heaters, such as the Center now has on the ground floor, are **not** permitted.

Egress doors are still being discussed. The Team recommends that the Center engage George Stowe at a cost not to exceed \$2,500 to develop a life safety plan to present to the county when securing a building permit that would include a waiver on reworking egress doors. **The recommendation was moved, seconded, and approved.**

Frank Barbara summarized some additional activities of the Team.

- Frank expressed his appreciation to Peggy and Betsy Weinschel for getting the garbage out
- Buckets of sand have been placed outside for use with ice and snow
- Pilot lights
- Broken glass windows and panes in the gym will be replaced
- Propane tanks is to be filled

Winter Family Open Recreation Time. Peggy reported. There will be open recreation time from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the gym on Sundays from January 6th through February 24th. The proposal was welcomed by those in room.

AB Tech High School Equivalency. Terri Wells reported. Rebecca Loli of AB Tech is looking for an onsite location for HSE classes in the Erwin area and is currently investigating Erwin Middle School, which may work out. Discussion ensued about the possibility of the Center becoming involved as a site if Erwin Middle School doesn't work out. Among possible needs are access to an area (possibly the kitchen area on the ground floor where the BOD meets) on 2-3 days a week for a total of 6-9 hours of programming. In addition there would be a need for a projector, screen, and locked filing cabinet. In light of the discussion, **it was moved, seconded, and approved** to enter into discussion with AB Tech about the use of the Center in the event that the use of Erwin Middle School falls through.

Forest Stewardship. Terri reported. The Forest Stewards Guild is concerned about Sandy Mush, its area and its people. In order to further its work on behalf of Sandy Mush, there are two requests:

- Would SMCC be willing to host a forest stewardship program?
- Would SMCC be willing to provide a supporting letter for a grant?

In response to questions about the organization and its requirements, Terri said that she would send out additional information by email.

ORAL REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

Mountain Music and Dance Benefit Report. Peggy reported. She distributed a two-page report but focused here comments on the first page; page two contained financial information. The Dance is well received and well worth doing AND it is a six-month project. Early planning is essential and will result in more money raised to support the activities and programs of the Center.

A question was asked about the timing of the Dance. Perhaps it might be held in early November rather than early December to reduce the likelihood of inclement weather?

Vance Garrett let the group in a round of applause for Peggy and all of the many volunteers who helped put on the 2018 Dance.

Fund Raising Team. Erin reported. Letters to Supporting Families will go out soon. As of this time there are 34 Supporting Families.

On February 2nd or February 9th (both Saturdays) the Center will hold a free chili dinner for the entire community. This will be an opportunity to get together, talk about what it means to be a Supporting Family, and have some fun.

The Team wants to rename itself from **Fundraising** to **Fundraising and Outreach** to more accurately reflect its activities.

A mail-delivered Newsletter is planned to go out three times per year. This will be a way of informing everyone in the area of goings on at the Center.

WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

The following reports were received:

- Food Pantry – Jean Barbara. **In November**, 49 households representing 130 individuals were served, with volunteers providing 91 hours of service.

Jean went on to noted that the Council of Aging had sent a representative to the Pantry. John Loyd spoke about the fuel assistance opportunities and that people should see him if they have questions.

- Rental Report – Peggy Baldwin. During 2017 there were 7 private rentals of SMCC; during 2018 there were 11 private rentals. Overall, there were 63% more rentals in 2018, with many more inquiries. It is a full volunteer job managing inquiries, showing the building, issuing letters of agreement, and opening and closing the building for renters.

- Internet – Mark Diaz. During November a few of outages were noted. User devices for the month were 701: 50 new users and 651 returning. The busiest day for the month was Tuesday, November 6th, when there were 130 connections from 70 user devices.

Following on these Reports, Kurt asked people to send him information about the number of people being served by Center programs during October, November, and December.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Betsy announced that the Library will be close during the holiday season. She will send out more specific information by email.

Lynda Emashowski said she was disappointed that the road sign is no longer being used to promote deep thought and expressed her great appreciation for what Dave has posted over the years. Discussion ensued and the sense of the room was, as expressed by John, that Dave be given artistic license in road sign posts, consistent with the Bylaws of the Center. Community announcements will take priority on sign posts and the President will be consulted about posts as appropriate.

Jean spoke on behalf of Craig Worley who had already left the meeting. Craig told her that he is willing to help address the water problem outside the building (near the end of the walkway). He has access to the necessary equipment.

The meeting was adjourned by Keith at 8:35 pm.