

Sandy Mush Community Center

Minutes

May 20, 2019

Attending: Martha Ball, Nick Biemiller, Bob Campbell Kathleen Campbell, Kevin Campbell, Vanessa Campbell, Donna Diaz, Mark Diaz, Kurt Eckel, Vance Garrett, Ray Hearne, Linda Harrison, Christopher Jayne, Bruce Larson, Jean Larson, Don Myers, Glenn Ratcliff, Deni Surrent, Andy Tait, Barbara Vassallo, Betsy Weinschel, Barbara Wells, Keith Wells, Terri Wells, Angela Whitney, Susan Wilson. *Twenty-six people attended the meeting.*

The meeting was called to order by President Christopher Jayne at 7:00 pm.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

This was the first meeting in the completely renovated ground floor kitchen area. Christopher thanked all those who worked on the room, especially Frank Barbara and Kevin Campbell. He also thanked Ruth Gavin for her service as a member of the SMCC Board of Directors.

Minutes. The April Minutes were prepared by Secretary Bruce Larson and distributed by email. After brief discussion, **the Minutes were approved with a minor amendment.**

Financial Reports. The April Financial Reports were prepared by then-Treasurer Erin Duckett and distributed by email. Erin completed her term on April 30th and Vanessa Campbell reported. During April, Total Income was \$1,769, and Total Expense was \$13,605 resulting in a Net Income of (\$11,836), that is, a deficit of \$11,836. As of April 30th, Available Funds were \$16,876. **The Financial Reports were approved as submitted.**

NEW BUSINESS

Forest Coalition. Nick Biemiller (Forest Stewards Guild) and Andy Tait (Ecoforesters) presented. Nick and Andy both spoke about their background, the organizations they work with, and the Forest Restoration Coalition. The Coalition is looking to support forest health in general and is looking to focus some of its activities in the Sandy Mush area with a focus on invasive control and forest stewardship activities. Terri Wells noted that the Coalition has a community-oriented approach—not top down.

The Coalition had two requests: (1) to use the ground-floor kitchen area 3-4 times during the next year—a rental would be paid; and (2) SMCC would be the local for a larger restoration gathering at a later time. In response to a question, it was noted that the Coalition would have funding for its project, which would include a mapping

exercise, for at least one year. In light of the foregoing, **it was moved, seconded, and approved that the SMCC will work with the members of the Coalition.**

Rentals. Keith Wells reported. He noted that Red Oak will not meet on 4H Mondays, being very amenable to making the change; Red Oak has spoken with its clients about the playground. At a later time, Red Oak would like to meet with the community.

Keith then read a statement about the importance of moving forward on storage space for 4H. Terri asked if there is a plan for when that storage space will be available?

Linda Harrison spoke about a workshop she recently held in the ground-floor kitchen area. About 25 people attended. Linda works with counselors and social workers in a teaching setting and Sandy Mush and the kitchen area meeting space is especially inviting. In appreciation for this opportunity, Linda has donated padded blue chairs to the Center. Her workshop was a rental and she would like to rent the kitchen area more regularly going forward for similar purposes. That being the case, **it was moved, seconded, and approved to rent the kitchen area to Linda Harrison as an appropriate use of the Center.**

Veterans Project. Vance Garrett and Terri reported. The Veterans Project has had good support from the community for its activities. So far, approximately 260 Sandy Mush veterans have been identified. The results of work on the Project can be seen on the wall outside the Youth Room and will be updated as needed.

Treasurer/Bookkeeper. Vanessa reported. Kurt and Vanessa received two quotes from bookkeepers/CPAs to perform bookkeeping for the Center in the range of \$250-\$300 a month. We intend to get one more quote before making a hire.

Terri asked for information about bookkeeper activities. In response, Vanessa read a description of activities from one of the quotes. Barbara Vassallo noted that the time demands required for grant management can be extensive. Terri reminded the Board that the Center's existing code prevents it from not having to pay sales tax. This may be something to look into.

At this time the following motion was made:

The Center will get a third bookkeeping quote and the Board of Directors will follow up in a timely fashion on hiring a bookkeeper once it has been received. The Board will vote by email once the information has been received.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Email votes must be unanimous.

ORAL REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

Mountain Lady Farm Project. Barbara Vassallo reported. The recent Mother's Day Project, run by Deni Surrett, drew 45 children who used the ground-floor kitchen area. She thanked Kevin Campbell and Frank Barbara for creating such a beautiful space with such good energy.

During Spring Fling children decorated cupcakes—72 were sold. Two dozen brownies, iced tea, and lemonade were also sold. These activities provide valuable learning experiences. Seventy-five planters were made—33 children took them home. Barbara brought some planters to show the Board.

Barbara thanked the Center for its support. Terri spoke of the great value generated by Barbara and the Spring Fling.

Internet Report. Terri reported. The Internet is paid for through the end of the year. The Buncombe County Board of Commissioners seem to be positive about its use at the Center. She noted that a number of community members spoke or wrote to the Commissioners in support of Internet access. Beyond benefiting SMCC with the grant, this combined voice was a factor contributing to the Commissioners urging the county staff to assess, via survey, the internet needs of the county's citizens.

French Broad Electric Membership Co-operative has applied for a grant from the Federal Government to further Internet access. They should know by the end of 2019 if they receive this funding. If so, they will have up to 3 years to deploy fiber Internet to the areas proposed in the grant, Sandy Mush being one of them.

Vanessa asked for clarification of some statistics in the Internet Report. Mark Diaz made the clarification.

Insurance Update. Kurt Eckel reported. As a result of a consult with the Center's insurance provider, he spoke about information requirements for injuries at the Center. The elements of such a report were outlined, including that an officer of the Board of Directors should be informed about the incident. A reporting for will be developed.

WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

The following reports were received:

- Notes from Initial Long-Term Strategy Team—Bob Campbell
- Building Team Report—Kurt Eckel
- Food Pantry—Jean Barbara
- Internet Report—Mark Diaz. There was one minor outage during the month. User devices were 336; 17 new users and 319 returning. The busiest day for the month was Monday, April 1st, when there were 32 connections from 24 user devices.

Terri asked about the origin of the Long-Term Strategy Team. Christopher spoke about the first steps of the Team, which is in its early stage of discussion. Kathleen Campbell spoke briefly about the Notes that were written about the meeting. Mark expressed concern about some of the matters discussed noted the importance of transparency. Terri indicated that it is important for teams like this to be broadly representative of the community.

At this time, Terri spoke about Career Day at Erwin Middle School and how well the participation of Donna and Mark Diaz was received.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Betsy Weinschel noted that there was recently a problem with bears and trash at the Center.

Christopher asked, "How can we better improve our email communication?" This is something that needs to be placed on the Center's agenda.

The meeting was adjourned by Christopher at 8:52 pm.