

# Sandy Mush Community Center

## Minutes

*November 12, 2018*

**Attending:** Peggy Baldwin, Frank Barbara, Jean Barbara, Joe Belcher, Bob Campbell, Kathleen Campbell, Kevin Campbell, Vanessa Campbell, Erin Duckett, Kurt Eckel, LuEllen Epstein, Dave Everett, John Gavin, Ruth Gavin, Christopher Jayne, Bruce Larson, John Loyd, 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 October Minutes were prepared by Secretary Bruce Larson and distributed by email. **The Minutes were approved as submitted.**

**Financial Reports.** The October Financial Reports were prepared by Treasurer Erin Duckett and distributed by email. During October, Total Income was \$7,542 and Total Expense was \$2,051 resulting in a Net Income of \$5,491. She also noted that cash available is \$17,043. **The Financial Reports were approved as submitted.**

Erin summarized recent donations and noted the Center has a new Supporting Family.

In light of the upcoming December Event, Erin raised the issue of expanding the payment options for purchasing items. Two alternative products from payments company Square were outlined and discussed. In the end **it was moved, seconded, and approved** to purchase a \$399 terminal from Square that would have a \$300 rebate after a small usage level had been reached. The terminal will not be available for use at the December Event, although another alternative will be available at that time.

Finally, Erin noted that a meeting to discuss the 2019 budget must be set up. After discussion, it was decided that the budget will be discussed in the hour immediately preceding the December BOD meeting, i.e., 6 to 7 pm on December 17th. She will distribute materials beforehand but toward that end all teams must submit budget requests to her by December 3rd.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Nominating Committee Report.** Peggy Baldwin reported. She summarized the Committee's written report, noting that this is the first year to use a Nominating Committee for the BOD process. In conducting its work, the Committee identified a list of more than ten people. In doing so, it included people who have shown some degree of participation in Center activities during the last three years.

As a result of the Committee's deliberations, it submitted the following people to serve on the SMCC Board of Directors: **John Loyd, Lynette "Deni" Surrett, and Bob Campbell**. Peggy Baldwin and Dave Everett are rotating off the BOD at the close of 2018.

Furthermore, it is suggested that **Christopher Jayne** serve as President during 2019; Christopher is currently serving as Vice President. Finally, it suggested that **Vanessa Campbell** serve as Vice President during 2019.

Beginning in 2019, and in the future, the Committee suggests that the Vice President work with the President to organize the agenda for each meeting of the BOD.

Upon hearing the summary of these suggestions, as further elaborated in the written Nominating Committee Report (12 November 2018), **it was moved, seconded, and approved** to accept the report as submitted. In addition, **it was moved, seconded, and approved** that the BOD would hold its monthly meetings on the third Monday of the month beginning in December.

**Buncombe County Grant Reporting.** Kurt Eckel reported. Buncombe County would like the Center to develop and record information about such things as Internet Usage and Total Families Served (TFS) as part of the evidence of the impact of its grant activities. Discussion relating to TFS ensued. Commissioner Belcher suggested that the Center focus more on meeting community needs rather than focusing so much so much on numbers.

**Roadside Cleanup.** Dave Everett reported. Dave noted that these pickups are very dangerous since we do not have speed limit signs. We need additional help from the Department of Transportation or Buncombe County Sheriff's Department (BCSD) to ensure volunteer safety. Visiting Buncombe County Commissioner Joe Belcher asked that an email be sent to him requesting speed limit signs and he would deal with it. On the subject of safety, Chris Jayne suggested that a BCSD presence would contribute to cleanup safety.

**Sign Usage.** Ruth Gavin spoke. She indicated that she was unsure about what the usage rules are for the SMCC sign (on Sandy Mush Road). Discussion ensued, focusing upon the importance of maintaining the nonprofit status of the Center. As the discussion concluded, it was noted that further exploration is needed outside the meeting with the goal of developing written recommendations regarding sign usage.

## **ORAL REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES**

**Mountain Music and Dance (December Event).** Peggy reported. Peggy distributed an event sign-up sheet developed by Martha Ball. Here are some things to note:

- No raffle but there will be door prizes.
- We are moving forward with T-shirts with the existing design.

- Children 10 and under can enter and eat for free.
- Martha Ball is doing the advertising for the event.
- Chris mentioned that there might be some opportunity to draw attendees from the Haywood County Balsam Range event to the Center. Peggy said she would contact Martha about this possibility.

Vanessa Campbell noted that as of this time event sponsorships are in the \$6,000 range. There is still time to make additional asks if one wishes.

**Building Team Report.** Kurt and Frank Barbara reported. Kurt noted that as the Building Team explores improvements to the top floor of the Center, it is important to keep in mind that commercial contracting, such as required at the Center, is light years different from residential contracting. With that in mind, it is *essential* for the Center to hire an architect to make a case on behalf of the Center to the Buncombe County Planning Department for the improvements to be undertaken.

Frank discussed the recent electrical outage, which took place just before the November election. An electrician was called in to examine the building and subsequently French Broad EMC was called in. FBEMC was able to locate the problem and fix it, thereby avoiding further disruption. He noted that the Center currently has about \$4,000 worth of electrical work that needs to be done.

In light of the Building Team Report, the BOD indicated that the services of an architect are needed to proceed with building improvements. The Building Team will begin this process.

**Volunteer Dinner.** John Loyd reported. There have been many good comments about the Dinner. Please send your thoughts about it to John.

John also reported on the Calico Cat Award received by the Center from WNC Communities for activities during the year. (The Center was recognized as a Community of Promise since its activities “show promise and can be replicated around the region.”) In receiving this Award a variety of activities were noted, some of which were the Food Pantry, High School Equivalency program, and the new playground. In addition to the Calico Cat statue, the Center received \$1,000 for its work.

## WRITTEN REPORTS AND STATUS UPDATES

The following reports were received:

- Food Pantry – Jean Barbara. **In September**, 49 households representing 140 individuals were served, with volunteers providing 96 hours of service. **In October**, 46 households representing 120 individuals were served, with volunteers providing 112 hours of service.

- Internet – Mark Diaz. During October a couple of outages were noted. User devices for the month were 781. There were 56 new users and 725 returning. The busiest day for the month was Thursday, October 4th, when there were 156 connections from 52 user devices.

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

In light of the discussion regarding building improvements, John Gavin suggested that we (the Center) should ask for what we need, even if it is \$100,000. There is a general recognition that we are just getting started developing the Center.

The meeting was adjourned by Keith at 9:10 pm.