

Felege Hiywot Center  
Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting Minutes  
January 10, 2012

**Opening:**

The regular monthly meeting of the FHC Board of Directors was called to order by Board President, Darye Henry at 6:15 pm on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 in the Felege Hiywot Center.

**Present:**

Darye Henry	Ginny Roberts
Mary Studley	Chris Rothenberger
Val Tate	Lauren Nowlin
Gene Ford	Nicole Oglesby
Lynn Wiegand	Bryan Richards

**Absent:**

Ralph Taylor  
Aster Bekele

**A. Approval of Agenda and agenda distribution**

**B. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting was unanimously approved.

**C. Old Business**

A review of last month's meeting was discussed. A review of new board members approval to the board and introductions were made. The importance of each board member to verbalize their distinct strengths and roles they wish to play were encouraged to be shared verbally and in writing. Darye will collect each member's written description of the role they wish to play on the team and what they are willing to contribute. A request for someone to step up and be the secretary for taking meeting minutes was requested. Lynn Wiegand offered to take that role and was accepted.

**D. New Business- Member reports/updates**

Mary Studley: Reviewed current services FHC provides to community in the schools. FHC is currently providing educational support (science lessons per state standards) in

IPS elementary schools 69 (all day 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades by Ginny Roberts), school 56 starting a club, school 51 after school . We also provide services to a group of special ed students here at the center to help with learning skills outside of the school setting.

Reported that the building that was demolished across the street from the center is now an issue that will be addressed by the Martindale-Brightwood community in partnership with FHC to help identify options to develop the property that will benefit the community in positive ways. Mary plans to attend the community meeting next week .

Christmas family support – Quentin. Looking for funds to employ Quentin year round. Gift of Grace east 91<sup>st</sup> church partnership provided 250 families with donations. Identified a volunteer group called Brothers Helping Others that are looking for service opportunities . Question was raised how we can coordinate and contact this group as well as others in an effective manner. Darye said that he believed that Vicki was working on a volunteer database. Also, that a social media presence/outreach to solicit volunteers would be a method to consider in the future if someone was willing to take on this task. (ie: twitter, facebook, etc.)

Chris Rothenberger: Reported the status of the lab work and renovations. Walls and ceiling are complete, hallway needs additional work as well as some electrical and insulation needs in the attic. New window has arrived and ready to install. Floor to be started next few weeks . Needs construction supplies and skilled volunteer help once he is able to obtain materials. Ginny offered to contact Lowes and ask for material donation this week. Chris will send her a list of needs by Friday of this week so that she can make request.

Ginny Roberts: Discussed her role teaching science in the classroom using the 4H curriculum on Fridays in school 69 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders and their response. It is a 6 week process , and they are learning teamwork as well.

Val Tate: Reviewed Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) conference 2012 and FHC's opportunity to participate in the event. She would like to see us do a workshop and tour of the center for the attendees. This would take place on May 21, 2012. Will need someone to take responsibility for organizing this. She also offered to give the new board members a "Board Orientation". Asked new members to send her questions and she will tailor her hour long presentation to their needs. There was a discussion whether we should wait until the next board meeting to have this orientation or would she be willing and able to do it at an earlier date for these new members. All new board members agreed that an orientation to the center's history and workings ,etc, would be

extremely helpful especially as they determine how their expertise can best be utilized. There was also a discussion regarding Youth Study Circles and the funding for this year from the Action Grant. No one knew if Aster had applied yet or aware of the upcoming deadline. Lauren Nowlin offered to contact Calia Ligon to assess the status of FHC.

Lynn Wiegand: The need to understand the center's finances in order to come up with an effective fundraising plan was stressed. A request was made for the board or at least the fundraising chair to have access to the center's sources of revenue, and an accurate picture of funding sources. Darye offered to put the information on the board cave website along with other historical information about the center. There was discussion about utilizing our current contacts/data base and maximizing our connections, and building on those contacts to raise awareness and funds. Concerns were voiced about the challenges of doing a spring fund raiser/dinner like last year. Lack of manpower, board buy in, lack of public awareness were some of the issues that need to be overcome in order to have a successful event. Also, utilizing current sponsors/donors , along with effective, prompt follow up is felt to be a priority. Darye requested forward movement to begin planning on the event for at least a location and date. Lauren Nowlin offered to contact her mother, principal of school 26, to see if we could use their facility and what dates are available. A possible planning meeting to discuss a spring event was left open.

Bryan Richards : Strategic Planning. Discussed the need for a new plan for the center is due for 2012-14. Reviewed the strategic planning process and the importance for the board to assign a smaller core group willing to work specifically on the plan. The group should not only consist of board members, but possibly outside resources from the community, a student, etc. We should then set aside some time during each monthly board meeting to discuss certain topics within the plan. Our priority is to know our story by getting information in place so we as a board are fully knowledgeable regarding the functions of the center. Darye offered to put financial, marketing, budgeting and historical info on the cave for everyone to review. Mary offered to send everyone information she has developed over the years showing the center's growth. We then need to come up with a picture of what our future looks like in a dynamic sense. As we look forward, we will need to determine how many students we want to serve, the size of the center, the property needs, the role we play in the community, in the city, expansion options, etc. Only then will our fundraising needs be clarified and exposed.

Through a combination of meetings and electronic communications, we can identify board roles , expertise and develop our new strategic plan.

**E. Conclusion:** Darye requested we move forward on planning for a spring fundraiser/dinner. New board members should send him their areas of expertise and possible roles . Question whether Val wants to do board orientation at next meeting or should we do it before that time so as to focus on center issues.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM by Darye Henry. The next meeting will meet on Tuesday, February 7, 2012.

Minutes submitted by: Lynn Wiegand

Approved by: Darye Henry