

FELEGE HIYWOT CENTER
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
December 11, 2012

Opening:

The regular monthly meeting of the FHC Board of Directors was called to order by Aster Bekele at 6:15 PM on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 in the Felege Hiywot Center.

Present:

Aster Bekele Ralph Taylor
Chris Rothenberger Lynn Wiegand
Darye Henry

Guest: IdaMarie

Absent:

Val Tate Lauren Nowlin
Gene Ford Nicole Oglesby
Mary Studley

Approval of minutes: Unable to approve due to lack of quorum

Approval of agenda: Agreed upon

Director's Report: Aster Bekele

Introduced IdaMarie, administrative assistant for the center. Has been working at FHC since mid September. She has jumped right into daily operation support and has been contributing in day to day operations and planning, computer support, school programs/staffing, newsletter, updates, communications, capturing data. Organizing and planning information for summer program, volunteer database, and has been getting positive feedback from students and school staff.

STEM Garden Education Update: IPS 69 was just assigned a new principal this week, the fifth one in four years. Was unsure if the new administration was going to support the stem program due to the sudden change in the middle of the school year. Fortunately, the new principal has made science a priority for this school year and recognizes the importance of FHC presence and impact on its students. Hoping for a dedicated class room/space for our program. IPS 51 special education students come to FHC every Tuesday 9:30 – 11:30. IPS 51 Indy park after school for grade 1-6th will start in January. IPS 56 after school 4H is on Thursdays 4-5PM.

The demand also increases for the special needs students at IPS 56. Aster and Idamarie are the teaching staff and they are being assisted by Ginny Roberts, Chris Tobler, Dental Student from IU Dental school, and Ivy Tech students. They are doing a great job and receiving tremendous positive feedback.

Fund Raising/Grants

All 11 ipads have been sold

Summer youth fund expected to increase this year to 45-50K (30K last summer)

Lily capitol grant for 25K, if awarded will fund an outdoor classroom building

Food Service Community School grant: 8K expected soon

Local Initiatives Support Corp grant applied for and expected to get 10K. Will use it to expand our youth farm project. Modeled after the Boston Youth Farm Project. Aster contacted the Boston group who invited her to attend training session in Feb. Community Hospital will partner with FHC to pay for weeklong trip for Aster and Bryan Richards. Bryan has contacts in the area and has arranged for Aster to meet with community leaders and mayor to discuss partnerships in Indy via the youth farm project initiative. Hope to get Mayor Ballard and Andre Carson involved with the partnership. Community Health has offered to send nurse Linda with them to take the training, take notes, organize info, so that Aster will have time for meetings. Community will also be providing a chef for summer program along with the nurse.

FHC Strategy: Strategy is done in time to be linked to Northeast Quality of Life Plan (NEQLP): The strategy is also making an impact on the health promotion part of the Martindale Brightwood Quality Life Plan (MBQLP). FHC is the lead organization for the Health Promotion of MBQLP and already community organizations are requesting to partner with FHC for grants. Community Hospital and Goodwill have reviewed the strategy and are impressed by its content. They are looking into how to partner in our plan of expansion across the street. Aster spoke to current owner of the property and has determined that he is willing to consider a partnership with FHC & Community Hospital.

CDC: Aster found out that she can work with other CDCs in the area and not limited to MBCDC. Has reached out to Kings Park.

Financial Standing:

Aster passed out budget documents - copies to be accessible on board web site

Camp 2013: Planning has begun. Plan is to have each age group attend for one week at a time. Greenhouse will make that possible. Plants will be started in March and be ready for the garden for the season. Will be able to concentrate on each age group and provide quality session each week.

IUPUI Research: Service Design Projects are complete. Students came and interviewed students at Brightwood Community Center, Boys And Girls Club and Edna Martin center, to design a method for creative engagement that would provide

opportunity to understand them in their current context. Impressive graphics and documents have been produced and shared with relevant information regarding these students needs and wants along with ideas and methods to address them.

Orphans in Ethiopia: International 4H program is moving along well. The soil testing phase has been completed and the dairy farm has been approved and being implemented. Jeff Jones and Aster plan to go to Ethiopia in March to start the training phase of the 4H and agricultural program component with staff/teachers/students.

Update on Board Recruitment: It is a slow process. It has been determined that the selections should be based on needs. Identifying appropriate candidates is more important than just filling an open slot.

Facilities: Chris reported that insulation is now installed in the center. Should have much less heat loss and lower heating bills. Wiring has been redone and ready for new HVAC system to be installed in the spring. Greenhouse components have been delivered, ready to construct as soon as footers are installed. Has 3-4 people able and willing to construct in coming months.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 8, 2013 at 6:00 pm

Minutes submitted by: Lynn Wiegand

Minutes approved by: Aster Bekele