

Felege Hiywot Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
May 8, 2012

Opening:

The regular monthly meeting of the FHC Board of Directors was called to order by Executive Director, Aster Bekele at 6:30 PM after waiting for late comers to arrive.

Present:

Aster Bekele
Chris Rothenberger
Gene Ford
Ralph Taylor
Lynn Wiegand

Absent:

Darye Henry
Mary Studley
Lauren Nowlin
Val Tate
Nicole Oglesby

Approval of agenda and minutes:

Due to the lack of a quorum at meeting start, the 4 board members present decided to email last month's minutes to the board for approval electronically. Lynn will send.

Old Business/New Business

Review of last month's meeting and concerns were raised about the lack of board participation in meetings, events, email correspondence, etc. Discussion about the effect of this lack of presence such as poor communication, follow through on tasks and ideas, and frustration. Methods to attempt engagement and accountability were discussed. Immediate measures will include more notice from Aster via email regarding meetings/events. A request to all board members to please make your availability and intention to attend known to Aster prior to these meetings/events. (RSVP!!!!) It was noted that not all members find the current monthly meeting date/time convenient. Aster will send out a survey to all members regarding the monthly meeting day/time in an attempt to accommodate more people and encourage attendance.

Fund Raising Update: Aster

The Garden Party fundraising dinner event, held on April 28th, was attended by approximately 100 people, 5 out of 10 board members. Amount raised after expenses was \$3993.43. While falling short of our goal of 18K for the year, donations continue to be received through mail. Comparisons were made to last years event and it appears that there were less corporate sponsorships, less paid attendees. Goal for next year is for increased board participation, promotion and ticket sales.

The need to start planning for our fall fundraising event was discussed. Date is planned for September 22, 2012. Suggestion was made to form a smaller task force of board members to focus on planning/brain storming. Some ideas for the event

that will take place at the center site were carnival games, raffles, live bands, door prizes, festival atmosphere, neighborhood garage sale, etc. ALL BOARD MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PLANNING AND ORGANIZING COMMITTEE. Lynn will send email to determine a convenient date and time for a meeting .

Orientation handbook was given to members who hadn't gotten one yet. Please bring your handbook to next month's meeting . Val's presentation to the board has been postponed due to her and other new members' absence. Aster reported that Val would like to use the June board meeting to review the handbook . It was noted that documents are still missing from the book, such as calendar, updated programs, ethics statement, board roster. Lynn will ask Vicki to copy and complete missing documents.

Waiting to hear from Nicole about status of getting interns to help us with annual report . Also waiting to hear from Lauren if she can get the van from Edna Martin to transport board members to a tour of FHC projects/schools/orchard, etc.

Member reports/Updates

Mary Studley: sent in report via Aster. Working very hard to get Quentin into the public assistance system in order to get him medical, social, educational support and resources that he hasn't accessed for 7 years. Report on school/community connections. School 69 programs, directed by Ginny Roberts, is doing a science fair type event with 180 3rd and 4th graders on MAY 25, 9am-12pm at IPS 69. Science fair projects will be exhibited and judged. Families will be included in this first time event. Students are excited to participate.

Summer gardening program update: This summer session at FHC will be a 6 week program , full day, 9-3, for community children. Demand is extremely high and priority is to give local children the opportunity to attend. Program planning committee (Stephan, Ginny) has been meeting and planning curriculum. Day will consist of science/gardening, nutrition, engineering/4H, (will use agricultural component with our new resident chickens, bees greenhouse) , physical education. Ypress youth media component will be included from IndyStar in the form of a 2 week instructional program to teach students about reporting, and use of computers, video equipment, software. Will convert office to a computer room.

Aster Bekele: Planning is in place about interns/volunteers for summer program. Ivy Tech has students that need community service hours and IUPUI has students in need of internship opportunities. Unclear as to actual progress on this item. Looking for an engineering intern/college student to help in summer program.

Chris Rothenberger:

Discussed progress on facilities. Encouraged new board member to walk the grounds and become more familiar with our space. "Bus stop" is being relocated , beds are being raised, panels need to be picked up for shed, roof has been put on

between the 2 buildings. Expressed concern for converting current office space and storage area in a safe, appropriate manner in time for summer program. Aster and Chris will discuss in separate meeting. Chris made request to be more involved with the ongoing planning and administration of facility renovations and improvements. A suggestion was made to develop a schedule and budget for these ongoing projects.

Aster: Strategy planning is moving along with Bryan Richard's direction. Lilly endowment has given us \$7500 to fund his time in managing the strategic planning process for the center. Foundation expects this to be complete by December. Communications using email seems to be the best way to get board's input.

Gene Ford:

Requested information about upcoming events that he can lend his public relations/marketing support.

One area Aster requested support is that of advertising our Monday summer field trip day. Aster will get Gene detailed information about this so he can develop a plan to promote. A suggestion was made for them to meet to develop a marketing plan for the year. Aster will get a list of items that will need to be advertised in the coming year, stories out into the business publications and community. Another item that needs publicized is the International 4H dairy farm that has been approved at the orphanage in Ethiopia. There are opportunities to raise funds and sponsor orphans.

Conclusion:

ACTION ITEMS: All board members please respond to upcoming email to approve last month's minutes.

Please take note of your expected contributions in these minutes and follow up as needed .

Please respond to upcoming survey to get input for meeting time/day change.

Please respond to upcoming request for Fall fundraiser planning committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM, NEXT FHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 12 AT 6:00 PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. PLEASE RSVP YOUR INTENT TO ATTEND.

Minutes submitted by: Lynn Wiegand

Approved by: Aster Bekele