

Felege Hiywot Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2012

Opening:

The regular meeting of the FHC Board of Directors was called to order by Board President, Darye Henry at 6:25 PM on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 in the Felege Hiywot Center.

Present:

Darye Henry
Mary Studley
Lynn Wiegand
Ginny Roberts
Ralph Taylor
Chris Rothenberger
Nicole Oglesby
Bryan Richards
Aster Bekele
Jan Woodall

Absent:

Val Tate
Gene Ford
Lauren Nowlin

- A. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

- B. Old Business: Last month's minutes were reviewed. Board members were encouraged to utilize Caves to view the minutes. Lynn will send in .pdf form and post on Caves. Board member, Val Tate was supposed to conduct a board orientation tonight, but was unable to attend. This will be put on hold temporarily until discussed further with Val.

C. New Business/Member Reports

Lynn Wiegand: Discussed the need for help in finding a venue for the upcoming Garden Party fundraising event. Ginny Roberts offered to get information about a space that would work at her place of work at the fairgrounds. All agree that it would be the optimal space if we can get it. Aster will check with Bethel Church. Target dates are the last 2 Saturdays of April. Lynn also discussed possible grant opportunities

that she has found. Will need to discuss with Aster whether these are appropriate to pursue and the how to proceed.

Bryan Richards: Strategic Plan Review: encouraged board members to start thinking about how we each can contribute to the task forces he has put together. Talked about the importance of community input, how to communicate effectively with them, how to share our message, who to share it with, the need to develop a consistent message and what we want that message to be. Talked about the role of tools for communication, developing a survey for getting feedback. This process gives assurance to the foundation of continuity of our program to assure their ongoing investment. Bryan has developed a questionnaire that he will send to the board to assess their area of interest and identification of task force areas.

Mary Studley: Attending community town hall meeting on 2/23 , would be a good opportunity to start the process of soliciting community input, perceptions of the center, expectations, general community needs. Discussed the “quality of life” plan that Aster will share with the board. A planning session will be conducted between Mary, Aster and Bryan to discuss how they can present our message effectively at this meeting. Will consider setting up a booth. Talked about the INRC that is hosting a national neighborhood organizations conference in May, and will tour the FHC garden, center and school 69 garden initiative. This will take place on May 24. The press will be there providing the center with public exposure. Need to plan for a press release and media coverage of our center’s role in this event.

Ginny Roberts: Started back with schools on Feb. 4th. Nine Ivy Tech interns in the teaching program have volunteered to help during the school year.

Chris Rothenberger: Reported on status of building projects. New window for lab has come in, needs installed. Need for insulation above library and lab, need more materials. Hallway is just about finished. Voiced need to organize work groups for spring clean up and projects. Bryan mentioned possibly contacting Sports Corp. to utilize the super bowl list of volunteers. This led into a discussion for the need of a

soccer field at the center. Mary suggested that FFA could possibly be an option to help with the building of the field. Will investigate the proposal process.

Ralph Taylor: Offered to present our program to his Rotary Club meeting downtown location as well as Indy East and Indy Northeast. Needs program info from Aster in order to give presentation. It is Rotary's centennial year, members are doing 100 hours of service. We need to compile a list of service opportunities and he will present to the centennial committee. Also spoke about the Roteract and Interact clubs who do service projects. Talked about the Community Service Coalition reaching out to communities, especially international, like Ethiopians. Goal is to get an international presence at the state fair.

Nicole Oglesby: Talked about IUPUI's Chavez day of service on March 24, and the need for us to submit our service needs if we would like this group to consider working with the center. The next day of service for this group will be Earth Day. Discussed the need to develop a program model to maximize the experience of volunteers and exposure of the center.

Darye Henry: Encouraged board members to utilize the tools he has initiated on line. (Caves, Reborn Projects, etc) Suggestion was made to have board members engaged in using the tools and to provide some level of training.

Aster Bekele: Went over the highlights of her recent trip to Ethiopia. The trip was successful and the orphanage will be starting their own 4H program. They have 50 acres of land to utilize. A dairy farm project has been started and needs to be seen to completion. Aster, Ginny, Jeff (from Purdue) along with a dairy farm expert will travel back there at the end of March to continue their work.

D. Conclusion:

A request was made to send flowers to Azeb, as a kind gesture to support her commitment to the center during a difficult time in her family. All agreed. A suggestion was made to devote half of the next board meeting to board orientation and half to strategic planning.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM by Darye Henry. The next meeting will meet on Tuesday, March 13, 2012.

Minutes submitted by: Lynn Wiegand

Approved by: