

Felege Hiywot Center
Board of Directors
Meeting minutes
August 13, 2013

Present:

Aster Bekele
Darye Henry
Lynn Wiegand
Chris Rothenberger
Lauren Nowlin
Nicole Oglesby

Absent:

Ralph Turner
Geno Ford
Mary Studley

Invited Guests:

Bryan Richards
Jack Langston
Olivia Weprich
Alyssa Smith
Latisha Bacon
Brittany Reid
Nathanial Borek
Quinten

The monthly FHC Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM at the Felege Hiywot Center.

Approval of minutes from last meeting in May was unable to commence due to lack of board quorum. Request to approve via email.

Updates:

Summer Camp Update:

Aster gave a summary of the summer camp and how pleased she was about the outcome. Twelve high school students from a mix of urban and suburban schools such as Carmel, Tech, Breubuf, Arsenal and Broad Ripple worked together to conduct a successful summer camp series this year.

For the first time ever, Aster reported that she was at peace, not exhausted from summer camp due to the youth collaboration and effort put into this summer's program.

Biggest impact was our change of heart regarding the elimination of the 7th and 8th graders from camp next summer due to the negative response we were receiving from this age group. However, this summer, this age group excelled and appears to have benefited most from our new mix of counselors/teachers. The youth counselors totally transformed the focus of this group of students. They positively responded to the youth counselors as teachers and have given us so much positive feedback that we will continue to work with this age group as future Youth Farm participants and counselors.

Concerns: Staff turnover due to college, obligations and natural progression. We will need to assess the response of the campers and the need to have some familiar faces and continuity as we move forward.

Jack Langston, one of the senior counselors presented the highlights of this summer program and the plans/goals for next summer. Some of the topics discussed were:

- *Reviewed age appropriate plans for next year and plans for increasing the length and scope of the summer series to better accommodate the age mix of campers. Some ideas were to increase the length of the summer camp series to 8-9 weeks with the addition of field trip based camps for the younger kids.

- *The importance of providing mentors to the youth counselors to help them succeed was discussed.

- *Goals- the topic of growing capacity was discussed and the ultimate goal of a larger facility. It is realistic that we can fit 40-45 campers in the current space and up to 60 kids max. It will be a challenge to fit them in current space but is doable with good structure and planning. It was agreed that we should continue to utilize the structure of this summer and build on it .

- * Importance of recruiting new students/counselors into planning roles which will be ongoing throughout the year.

- * Importance of advertising and community outreach

Fall Fundraiser:

Scheduled for September 13-14, here at the center. It will take the form of an open house format, Ethiopian food will be sold. Times will be 11 AM – 6 PM each day. Presentations and tours will be conducted by youth counselors. Discussion about the need for planning and organization. Suggestion was made for board to

meet in 2 weeks to discuss specific ways to support the fund raiser and the need for each board member to help bring in sponsors and be more engaged.

Special meeting for the board to discuss fund raising and fall fund raiser will be on August 27 at 6:00. All board members are strongly encouraged to attend and to start thinking about potential sponsors for the center.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Special meeting of the board will be August 27 at 6:00 pm and the next regular meeting will be Tuesday, September 10th at 6:00 .

Minutes submitted by Lynn Wiegand

Minutes Approved by Aster Bekele