

FELEGE HIYWOT CENTER  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes  
August 14, 2012

Opening:

The regular monthly meeting of the FHC Board of Directors was called to order by board president, Darye Henry at 6:13 PM on Tuesday, August 14, 2012 in the Felege Hiywot Center.

Present:

Darye Henry           Aster Bekele  
Lynn Wigand  
Ralph Taylor         Mary Studley  
Val Tate              Gene Ford  
Chris Rothenberger   Lauren Nowlin  
Invited guest: Bryan Richards, Aspen Impact

Absent: Nicole Oglesby

Approval of minutes : Minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved

Approval of Agenda: Agreed upon

New Business: Updates/Reports

Aster Bekele: Summer camp 2012 was considered a success. All day program went well, students enjoyed exploring topics more in depth due to the extended day vs just a rushed 2 hour session like previously. Expected 160 students, had 100 attend. Smaller numbers allowed us to focus on higher quality. Still working on financial report, grant numbers. To be presented at next board meeting. Y Press students video project presentation /showing is being held Sunday, August 19 at FHC.

This Saturday, August 18, FHC will be holding a kick off celebration at the center for Celebrating Gardens and Gardeners from 2-4 PM.

Art work/mural in the lab will be finished and unveiled on Aug. 25

Lynn Wiegand: Fund raising report: Fund raising committee has decided instead of a fall open house, we will be revisiting a past successful monthly fund raiser and hold an Ethiopian Cuisine Friday. Starting on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> and every second Friday of each month at FHC, Ethiopian food will be sold from 11AM-7PM for take out and delivery. Gene is working on fliers/graphics. Chris will have banners made at MTM. Ginny Roberts has offered yard signs from her employer. When graphics are done, a publicity push/email blast will be done. Profits historically have ranged from \$300-1000/ month. Focus will then be on gearing up for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual spring garden

party to be held in April at 37 Place. Sponsor packets will be made so that board members can solicit potential sponsors. By starting planning and sponsor solicitation early, we hope to raise significant funds. It is hoped that all board members will help in this effort.

Aster Bekele: Continued her report with an opportunity to hire Public Allies staff as administrative assistants for 11K /10 month period. If we are able to find funding, they would start in September thru June. FHC could use this support for day to day administrative support, grant opportunities and to assist Aster in the numerous tasks needed to be done each day. Suggestion was made to ask 91<sup>st</sup>. St. Church for possible financing /support/sponsorship. A request has already been made from Liz Tate , CICF for assistance. Mary and Aster will solicit organizations for funding. Discussion about the actual amount that should be requested and if FHC has the funds to support this.

Motion submitted to board for approval/vote. Seeing that obtaining administrative help is a priority, should FHC pursue requests for funding to get a Public Ally, perhaps 2. By August 27<sup>th</sup> 2012, requests for funding will be made by Aster Bekele and Mary Studley in the amounts of \$14-28,000 in order to provide a cushion amount to cover administrative and material costs. Motion approved.

Bryan Richards , Aspen Impact- Close to final draft of strategic plan was presented and general overview discussed. FHC focus will continue to be on youth and educating, production of healthy food choices along with partnerships in the community. Discussion held on the need for administrative support/executive director support in the form of an apprentice who would shadow Aster and ultimately be an advocate for the center from the community. Suggestion was made to invite at least 2 community representatives to sit on the board as well as youth leadership roles .

Discussion on the importance of the board understanding the center's financial position, cash reserves, cash flow, grant info, and overall operating budget in order to proceed and carry out the strategic plan. Aster will work on financial report with the help of a contact offered by Mary Studley. It was suggested that a smaller finance committee meet before the next board meeting to assist in the evaluation and interpretation of these numbers. A request was made of all board members to help in finding/identifying an accountant who may be willing to donate their time to assist. Also a priority is to develop a budget for the future and incorporate the strategic plan .

FHC board members are appreciative to Bryan for his excellent work on compiling the information that was gathered over the last several months. It was felt that the plan did an excellent job of reflecting the center's goals and objectives for the future.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Next meeting September 11, 2012 at 6:00 PM

Minutes submitted by: Lynn Wiegand  
Minutes approved by : Aster Bekele