**Fannin County Family Connection**

**Board Minutes**

**December 9, 2021**

In Attendance

Present: Jim Yacavone, Tom Niswander, Sherry Echelberger, Maureen Escott, Renee Lunney, Michael Kilpatrick, Robert Gleadal, Gordon Riddoch, Theresa Dillard, Cindy Trimble.

Absent: James Brumbelow, Jane Kimzey, Anna Speesen, Candice Youngberg,

Staff present: Sherry Morris

Call to order and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting were not available but will presented at the next meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Jim Yacavone.

Finance Committee Report: Tom Niswander

Tom Niswander reported that the regular annual audit will be conducted Jan 5 -7, 2022. After the audit the mid-year financial report will be given at the January Board Meeting.

Governance & By-Laws Committee- Sherry Echelberger

The nominating committee will present the new slate of officers at the annual meeting on January 13. Nominations are as follows: Chairperson—Jim Yacavone; Vice-Chair—Sherry Echelberger; Treasurer—Tom Niswander; Secretary—Theresa TC Dillard; Assist, Sec—Gordon Riddoch. If approved, the new officers will start immediately.

The Staff PTO Policy that has been updated and reviewed at previous meetings was presented for final approval. There was a motion and a second to accept the policy. Vote was unanimous. Jim will send out final policy for members to print and to update Board Handbook. Sherry Morris will notify the staff of the new policy and its implementation.

Strategy Team Update: Anna Speessen

No report.

Tour of Homes Fundraiser: Renee Lunney

Congrats and thanks to Renee Lunney for time and effort devoted to coordinating the successful Tour of Homes. Jim indicated he knew who could coordinate again next year!

Preliminary numbers indicate $33,700 received from sponsors; $1,800 from tickets; $1,220 from Silent Auction; and $422 from the decorated cake donated by Michael Kilpatrick. For an approximate total of $37,227. The final total will be presented at next meeting as there are donations still being received. A list of sponsors as of Nov. 29 is included with minutes.

Gift baskets for owners of homes were beautiful and appreciated by all.

Special thanks will be given to the community member who runs the regular downtown shuttle who jumped in to assist when the number of people to transport grew too much for Greg. Sherry has his business card and will make sure he is thanked properly.

Suggestions for improvements next year: time changed to 1:00 to 5:00; encourage odd bids at Silent Auction; and increase promotion of Silent Auction. Additional suggestions can be shared with Sherry or Renee.

Task Forces: Jim Yacavone

There will be five new task forces implemented in January: Volunteer Relations; Donor Relations; Collaborative; Community Room; and Advisory Board. Members are asked to review the descriptions of each committee and if not already, advise Jim of preference of committee on which to participate. Committees will meet and in 60 to 90 days report to the entire board their recommendations. The board will determine which recommendations to implement.

Members are reminded that community members can serve on committees. Be thinking of people you can get involved. Also, the purpose of task forces is not to add more onto the plates of the staff but to improve board and Family Conn while seeking out new volunteers and potential board members.

Feed Fannin Report: Tom Niswander

Feed Fannin continues to actively search ways to serve the community food needs in addition to supporting Family Connection--- Good Samaritan dinner, delivering food to those without transportation; food to MEC students, etc.

The relationship between Family Connection and Feed Fannin is improving as communication and appreciation continue to be utilized and expressed.

Directors Report: Sherry Morris

Monthly statistics -As always Food Lion leads the way, donating the greatest number of retail pounds (Community purchased 6,655 pounds of Food Lion food boxes). Monthly running totally report is attached. Food Pantry is close to serving as many as last year at this time.

Poverty Awareness Workgroup will be advocating for affordable housing. Board can’t lobby but can inform. Will start with forming a new Strategic Team to implement Adult Education Life Skills (Mental Health Strategic Team will continue to meet once a month to coordinate monthly mental health newspaper articles.) First step is to conduct Ambassador Training on January 20, 2022 with make-up day on January 27, 2022. Then conduct Poverty Simulation on March 16, 2022, at Fannin County High School. Everyone will need to recruit for both events.

Upcoming holiday closing dates were reviewed.

Adjournment

Jim Yacavone adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Theresa TC Dillard

Next Board meeting – January 13, at 2:00 p.m.