

Fannin County Family Connection

Board Minutes

January 26, 2024

ATTENDANCE – (Quorum Present)

Members Present- Sherry Echelberger, Brian Higgins, Mark Snoddy, Robert Gleadall, Karen Walton, Chris Martinez, Gordon Riddoch, Candance Youngberg, Ryan Beadnell, Bonnie Villeneuve, Tom Niswander, Jim Brumbelow

Members Absent- Sherry Morris, T.C. Dillard, A. D. Frazier

Call to Order and Consent Agenda

Chairperson Sherry Echelberger called the meeting to order at 8:40. She welcomed the members and thanked them for their participation. She expressed the sadness we all felt for the passing of Sherry Morris's father. She introduced and welcomed Amanda Russel as a visitor to our Board Meeting. She then asked for a motion to accept the proposed agenda and the minutes of the November 16, 2023 Board Meeting. Robert made the motion, seconded and approved by vote.

Feed Fannin Status Report

Tom Niswander presented the FCFC Food Pantry Operations Summary for review. (report attached) Tom reported that he had attended the Feed Fannin board meeting and that the relationship between the two organizations was great. Feed Fannin continues to be the largest donor to the food pantry and they are looking forward to serving Fannin County.

Committee Reports:

Finance- Tom Niswander presented the Monthly Finance Report (report attached) The budget is good. We are in better shape financially for this time of year than expected. The Board thanked Tom for his work with the budget and the report.

Fundraising- Information on the final results of the Christmas Tour of Homes was presented. (Report attached) The total amount received was \$38,571.90 which is a record amount. Sherry mentioned that the early start on planning was important. She recommended that we begin to form a committee in the coming months to begin planning for this year's event.

Strategy Team Reports:

Mental Health Awareness – Due to Sherry's health and family issues, the book study that was planned to begin this month has been postponed. The new dates will be announced when Sherry returns.

Family Care (Kinship program)- Bonnie has been in contact with 2 families and they are planning to meet together on February 8, 2024 to talk. She emphasized that time and trust is important in developing the relationship needed to help many families. Most of these families are independent by nature and do not feel the need to ask for help. She is hoping to provide a family visit to a horse farm in the spring. The board thanked Bonnie for her dedication and offered support for her group.

Nominations and Government-Robert reported that their committee had located 4 potential candidates for the board. The committee has been looking for candidates that had experience in areas of finance, legal, faith, and medical. They are not limited to these areas but these are areas the board has a need for. If any current member has a candidate, please let Robert know. The plan is that the committee will present the nominations at the meeting in February for a vote. The new board members will be introduced at the Annual Meeting in March.

Staff Realignment – Tom and Robert reported that following the recent departure of Kristy Lindstrom, they had been in discussion with the director. There is a need to combine Kristy’s former public relations and communication position with a position that deals with daily operations. This would take some of the stress and work load from Sherry. This person would be available to become the next director following the eventual retirement of Sherry.

Board Officer’s Election-A vote on Officers of the Board is postponed until next month.

Committee Members for next year-A list of Committee Assignments for 2024 was presented. Sherry asked if there was any changes or additions to the assignments. Mark Snoddy volunteered to be on Fundraising, and Gordon Riddoch volunteered to be on Communications and PR. Motion made to accept the Committee Assignments as amended was seconded and approved.

Warming Shelter- An open discussion was presented by those board members who had volunteered to help at the Warming Shelter. Many of the issues involved dealing with people and policy. Tom reported that he is working on a manual dealing with some of the issues with the warming shelter. One primary concern is what is our job as a volunteer at the shelter. The staff and the board are not equipped for this type of work, and it is not our job to deal with the individuals. FCFC was to provide the shelter not the leadership. A motion was made to **“Place the use of the FCFC facility as a Warming Shelter on hold until we have had an opportunity to discuss the operation with the County EMA director”**. Motion was seconded and approved by vote. This motion will be discussed with Sherry Morris upon her return to work.

New Business- Self Defense- Brian Higgins has been in contact with an individual who is an expert in self defense as a retired police officer. He has offered to provide a course in unarmed self-defense for any individual who is interested. Brian will contact the officer and arrange to have a course.

Van Camera – Brian drove the van picking up people for the warming shelter. In doing so he noted a need for a better camera and security system in the van. He has located a system that will improve safety and visibility for \$600.00. Motion made to approve purchase of this system was seconded and approved by vote.

Facilities Building- Jim Brumbelow reported that ETC currently provides the cameras and security for the building. There are plans to upgrade the system which is needed. The committee is working on improving the front door locks leading into the building. There are plans to build a privacy wall in front of the restrooms in the conference room. They plan to install deadbolt locks leading into the warehouse room used by Toys for Tots. The Roof is leaking. The building is eligible for a grant from FEMA, however, applying for the grant is extremely difficult and time consuming. There is a person who is an expert on FEMA grant applications. He charges \$695.00 for this service. The committee plans to contact this person later this year.

Other Business -Candace made a motion to give \$150.00 gift cards to Sherry, Mandy, and Kayla for a spa treatment. This is to our show appreciation for the extra effort they have shown this past month. Motion seconded and approved by vote.

Funeral arrangements for Sherry's father- Ryan Beadnell has offered to provide food and FCFC will provide drinks and flatware.

Jim reported that Tots for Tots provided Christmas presents to 876 children in the county.

The Blue Ridge PickellBall Group is planning a tournament at the County Rec Center. They plan to donate a portion of the profits to FCFC. They would like volunteers to help or join group.

With no other items to discuss a motion to adjourn was approved at 10:20.

Minutes prepared by Gordon Riddoch

Accepted and Approved on: _____

Signed: _____