

February 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Pres. Melanie Lott who opened in prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old business

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed on a motion by Brian Fry and seconded by Frank McKnight.

The treasurer's report was presented by Tarsha Taylor and approved on a motion by Melanie Lott with a second from Pam Nobles.

New Business

1. Community Action Team—Sgt. Smith reported that the Cordesville area was fairly quiet last month with 4 reports requiring the Sheriff's Department response—one burglary, 2 instances of intimidation, and one assault.
2. Committee updates—
 - a. Community center—the pad had been framed and the building purchased and ordered. It has 12-16 weeks lead time.
 - b. A by-laws update is necessary for clarification of our non-discriminatory policy. The proposed changes were printed and given to each attendee and posted on the Community Facebook page. The changes will be voted on at the March meeting.
 - c. Cordesville Cares—there will be a litter pickup 3/1 along Dr. Evans Road and others. A QR code was on the agenda for registration if lunch was wanted. Participants are asked to meet at Wadboo Boat Landing at 9 a.m. The pickup is expected to last until 11:30.
 - d. Education—The GED training is on line so students can work at their own pace. In person assistance is available several times during the week. Students are asked to schedule in person visits so instructors are not waiting needlessly.
 - e. Fundraiser—With the goal of one fundraiser/quarter, Frank reported that the proposed fishing tournament was probably not the best option as it was labor intensive with little financial return for the Community. Several suggestions were made, including a fireworks stand; a garage sale; bake sale (or maybe both in conjunction with each other); fish fry; BBQ competition (the County is sponsoring one on May 5); and a chili cook-off. Anne will investigate the feasibility of a fireworks stand for the community. Frank will co-ordinate plans and bring additional information.

- f. Grants—Brian and Tracey presented their findings via a power point presentation recognizing that these were long term plans with the primary challenges being grants and fundraising.
 - i. The fire station building being offered by the county is a temporary solution, but our long-term
 - ii. goal is to own land and build a dedicated community center for the benefit of the Cordesville community.
 - iii. Volunteers and donations are vital for success
 - 1. Bonneau hosts bingo every week making about \$300/wk. All workers are volunteers.
 - 2. Alvin—developed teams of 10 with the goal of each team soliciting \$100/team member to earn \$1000 in 90 days. The Alvin leadership felt that involving the community in fundraising gave individuals a sense of ownership in the community and the center.
 - 3. Both stated that a newsletter is wanted to keep citizens informed about donations and volunteer time opportunities.
 - 4. Melinda Alston-Manuel and Ruth Fry volunteered to work on the newsletter.
 - iv. Temporary plans involve the fire station building; however, we want to own the furnishings so we can take with us as we develop our own center.
 - v. The future center is envisioned as about 8000 sq. ft. single story building and 2-3 acres of land. Cost estimate at this time about \$1 million. The vision includes the offering of afterschool and summer activities, feeding programs for kids during the summer. It was suggested that the parking lot be rock rather than paved as it requires a smaller retention pond and is less expensive. We will need to consider exterior lighting and cameras for security and safety. The possibility of a sheriff's office/substation was floated.
 - vi. Melanie asked attendees to share the vision for potential assistance with programs and opportunities.
- g. Calendar Highlights—
 - i. The next meeting will be on Saturday 3/15 from 10-11 at Cordesville in order that community pastors who do not live in the community can attend. A Taveau report will be presented.

The meeting was adjourned in prayer at 7:05 p.m. by Melanie.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Turner, Secretary