

Cordesville Community Citizens

Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2024

The meeting was opened in prayer by Betty Richardson after being called to order by Chair, Melanie Lott. The meeting was held at Cordesville Baptist Church.

Old business

Minutes from the August meeting were accepted as presented after a motion by Frank McKnight and a second from Mother Anna Gibbs. The treasurer's report was accepted on a motion from Mother Anna Gibbs and a second from Frank McKnight.

New Business

Community Action Team Update—Sgt Jimmy Smith stated that all calls from Cordesville last month were for lockouts and animal calls. Nothing major to report from our community. He did remind us that is we “see something, say something.”

The sheriff and county council will have community meetings to provide opportunities to bring concerns and discuss infrastructure. The meetings will be held throughout Berkeley County from 6-8 a.t the following locations: 10/2 at Philip Simmons High School; 10/7 at Berkeley High School; 10/15 at Timberland High School

Committee updates

Cordesville Cares—Frank McKnight reported that nothing was scheduled for the 2nd Saturday.

Education—Melanie reported that we are entering the 3rd year of offering GED courses. We've had 7 students with 2 completing their GED requirements. Currently one student has one course, and two students need to complete 2 courses. Charleston Literacy has provided the ability to take the computer placement test here so transportation to Hanahan for testing is no longer an issue. Google has provided Chrome books and has loaded the necessary programming. We have two volunteers to teach Excel/Word. Community citizens have expressed an interest in honing skills in these areas.

Making it REAL—Pam Gaskins reported that we are now serving 94 meals/week. Additional volunteers for the delivery routes are needed, either as regular or as standby.

Garden—Melanie reported that okra and greens were plenteous, and people were welcome to come pick as desired.

Gala/Parade—Information was given about the Christmas parade to be held December 8 at 3 p.m. The Prince/Princess fundraiser was encouraged.

Status of Requested County funds—Melanie reported that 200K had been requested from Councilman Steve Davis but there has been no response.

Roundtable—The primary subject for the meeting was to discuss what the Community Citizens felt were the needs of the community in desiring a Community Center. The following needs were mentioned by various participants:

1. Emergency shelter—bathrooms, showers
2. Commercial kitchen—for weekly meal prep and emergency use
3. Computer lab—multipurpose, including telehealth options
4. Physical exercise—affordable, suitable for various abilities (such as yoga, etc)
5. Meeting space—events, tutoring and afterschool activities
6. Potential emergency response
7. Police substation—provide place for working on reports, taking a break (bathroom, snacks)
8. Garden

Comments: It was reported that Buck Powell has stated that the playground is available for community use. Dave Ensor who with Point North Hope Repairs is an engineer who may be able to help with a building plan which is needed for a business plan. Mr. Quigley stated that the county cleaned drainage ditches, and the swamp flooded. The swamp is privately owned, and the county cannot clean private property only the right of way. Those with Debbie damage were encouraged to contact and file for FEMA assistance.

Announcements—

9/21 Bake sale to be held at Cordesville Baptist parking lot to benefit the Fountain of Life Ministry.

9/22 Hickory Grove Pentecostal is having a lunch for donations to benefit those going on mission trip @ 1p.m

9/28 Annual Community/Pastor's prayer breakfast at 9 a.m. at Irving Chapel.

The meeting was closed in prayer at 6:40 p.m. by Melanie Lott after a motion by Frank McKnight

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Turner, Secretary

Attendance

Melanie & Charlie Lott

Frank McKnight

Tracey & Melinda Manuel

Kathy Ann Ball

Deloris Harleston

Michael Quigley

Beverly Villeponteaux

Betty Haynes-Richardson

Anna Gibbs

Perry & Pam Gaskins

Oscar Johnson

Cynthia Myers

Sheila Pinckney

Helen Rivers