

Black Forest Community Club BaO/General Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2024

Board Member Attendees:

President - Leif Garrison

Vice President - Kelly Marchbank

Treasurer - Cherie Erler

Board Member - Tiffany Coles

Board Member - Sherrie Lidderdale

Board Member- Jim Collins

Member Attendees:

Patricia Hunnybunn (Performed secretary duties for this meeting), John Bennet, Judy Von Felt, Nancy Piasecki, Carolyn Brown, Don Root, Cal Lidderdale and Robert Erler

Item #1: Review last meeting minutes

- a) Only change is re: #10 item work with Terry Stokka, Judy Von Ahlefeldt, Barbara Hosmer and Leif. Moved and 2nd to approve minutes with only 1 change by unanimous consent.

Item #2: Treasury Report – by Cherie Erler

- a) Conversation focused on transparency of Festival costs and plan for costs
- b) Reiteration that there is NO Festival account, never has been, never will be
- c) Explained further that donations with a specific stated purpose will go into a “special place” and set aside for that purpose via “Line Item” not its own account of fund.
- d) The BFCC is the backbone of the festival and the process and history is important and for the BFCC Board to be informed and part of the financial decision making processes for the Festival
- e) Tiffany mentioned that in the past years as Lead Volunteer for the Festival she has never had to get approval for expenses ahead of time
- f) Both Patricia and John Bennett also mentioned that the Budget needs for this year's festival have not fully been collected yet, but should be by the next festival meeting.
- g) Also, that expenses would be higher than the past because the focus is on safety and ensuring larger coverage in certain areas such as barriers, shuttles, this year there are more volunteers than ever and also, that many businesses will be doing fundraisers to cover costs
- h) John Bennett mentioned that the Board may be surprised at how much is raised and very likely going to be a surplus
- i) Question was raised if there is a surplus of funds raised over A/P costs would it then be allocated as a “Line Item” for future years as “Festival” and Cherie stated yes.
- j) Cherie also clarified that there is no bi law or expectation that proceeds will be donated (100%) to nonprofits, charities etc and requested that comments in the website be removed until further clarification.
- k) Tiffany and Leif agreed to remove that statement and Tiffany will send the edit to Leif.
- l) The next board meeting will address donations of surplus funds and get input from others from the board and officers
 - How to handle donated funds \$
 - What is donatable
 - Discussions and clarification must be done before the festival
- m) Leif also invited and suggested that board members attend the next festival meeting scheduled at John Bennetts home 5/8/24 6-8pm
- n) Cherie advised for 2024, there are no carry over or surplus funds for the festival so starting at \$0

- o) It was suggested to create a festival committee to oversee surplus proceeds
- p) General Fund on report is specifically for other costs not designated as the “next project”
- q) Savings account on report is specifically set aside for the “next” approved project
- r) Any surplus of proceeds of festival fundraisers will be listed as a “line item”

Item #3 – Festival Update – Tiffany

- a) Introduced John Bennett for consideration for Chief Festival Officer of the Festival 2024
- b) Provided some details about his and his wife, Karen's qualifications with fundraising, charitable organizations, group events
- c) Been in Colorado 36 years, in Black Forest 5 years at Bent Pines Lodge
- d) Formerly managed huge car shows (appx 35 of them) where thousands of people attended
- e) Managed coordination of vendors, food trucks, bands and a lot very similar to what the Festival has to organize
- f) John mentioned the need for more safety, which will cost more, but how amazed he is about the community stepping up and the appx 20 or more new volunteers that are assisting for their first time for the festival or any event in BF, that is how important it is to keep the traditions of BF alive

John Bennett spoke:

- a) 2024 Stand outs, already a ton is in motion and the lead volunteers have a great handle on things
- b) Businesses will be doing fundraisers to cover costs and expenses
- c) He has resources in a variety of areas that will provide services and items reduced price or free

Tiffany did a recap of where things are at

- a) Plan is to have a “budget” by all lead volunteers by next meetings
- b) Some have already provided their budget but not all
- c) That information will be provided to the BFCC Board
- d) Announced weareblackforest website that is live now for :
 - Vendor booth reservations
 - Sponsors – and already have \$3200 collected in hand
 - Volunteer sign up
 - BFCC Memberships and Payments
 - Parade Registrations
 - Interactive map
 - Announced the need to pay for expofp.com for 4 months = \$720 (new expense)
 - Some arguments and questions posed by Cherie if this was a justifiable expense
 - Patricia offered to do a sponsorship specific to pay and cover that
 - John Bennet and Patricia both discussed that the Festival is going to have more costs than previous years, but all expenses are likely going to be covered by sponsorships and fund raising by businesses
 - Tiffany advised that the increase price by \$10 additional for Vendor Booths with Parking alone will cover the expense
 - There was concern that the Festival planners were moving ahead with plans and budgets without consulting the BFCC board first and wants more transparency
 - Tiffany again, inquired as to why this year when previous years she was not asked to do a pre accounting of expenses or report ahead of time. There was no answer to this.
 - John mentioned the need for increased safety, increased need for more porta potties, more shuttles, and risks of has mat for example with porta potty overflows if we do not have enough.

There was some digression with this topic and concerns by more experienced board members that “feel” the festival planners are keeping things “hidden”, Tiffany, Jim Collins, John Bennet, Kelly Marchbank, Don Root, Patricia H were all in agreement that is not the case.

Leif reminded board members they are invited to attend Festival planning meetings and said he thought it would be a good idea to so they get input at the same time as festival planners and lead volunteers are discussing.

Next meeting May 8 6-8pm

Back to John Bennet appointment – no objections, consent by unanimous vote

Additional discussion of concerns re: how the festival planning is going

Cherie Erler and Judy Von Felt - continued concerns that the Board should be part of making decisions, that the Festival is not a business, and Sponsored by the BFCC , and need to know what is going on and need to have an idea of estimated costs and expenses

Tiffany, Patricia, John B advised that those are all coming, and assured that there would be a surplus, and that some things were started very quickly due to the Town Hall meeting requested by the community and business owners, and because the suggested and past “timeline” of Festival planning is already behind schedule things are moving fast, but in a very positive and successful direction

3A – what can BaO do to help ?

- a) Have patience, no hiding is happening, and will know more by next festival meeting, have Board members attend
- b) Allow Leads and CFO to manage and report back, in due process time

3B – Leif announced that as he attended the last Festival meeting it is apparent and a need to step up again, volunteers appreciation – not only for the festival but year round when volunteers step up

- With that, he announced that John Bennett graciously offered to host the Festival Volunteers after Party and any left over beer from the Beer Pavilion will go to good use and that the Festival insurance covers all weekend so if Party is the Sun following would be good.
- John Bennett said the Sunday following is best for them as well
- Then the discussion went on to inquire on insurance quotes that John and his wife are handling and they are getting several quotes and the cost this year “may be” significantly less (possibly \$1500 less) – but to ensure that Emerg Response Plan is utilized from last year and is in place. John B said yes.
- This brought up conversation of the need to secure new insurance for the Slash/Mulch program as the previous provider is no longer covering.
- John B said he and Karen can assist with securing or referral, Leif will discuss with John B later

#4 Bylaw Revision Status and Next Steps

- a) Problem, can not locate the official signed last ByLaws
- b) Only article of Incorp are filed with the state so the official ByLaws is currently missing but several are reaching out to former secretary's and board members to try and locate (Carolyn and Judy Von Ahlefeldt)

- c) The issue is that the working BiLaws using appears to be from 2012, however, there are comments in that copy (TBD for example in wildlife plan) that imply the copy being used is an older version
- d) Decided that any ByLaws amendments are on hold until the official most recent version can be located, and if not, then will have to work on what is believed to be the most recent and best version and work off that
- e) Was suggested who to reach out to (carrie robinson, John Hartley, Stockwell, Sue Fletcher, asked Don Root – he said he doesn't have any), Judy lost all records in fire, but possibly the "shed"?
- f) If someone can get in the shed and pull the box referenced by Kelly Marchbank, then Carolyn will go through that

Boundaries:

- a) Leif advised that some great input has been received for consideration of boundaries and he believes that a solution can come that everyone can get behind
- b) Keep it relatively simple and straightforward
- c) Respect everyone's input
- d) Has to be voted on by board and members
- e) Discussion is tabled until the BiLaws or best version is found to continue this discussion of boundaries

#5 – Back Yard Plant and topographical survey Update

- a) Landscape Architect Christen H will do a walk through with Leif to make a proposal and provide fee \$ after viewing
- b) The Survey company to be used to do the Topography survey is willing to do it for a 5 year membership = \$75 value and nothing else
- c) After the survey and the walk through, Christen H will provide a proposal and price
- d) There was much discussion about concerns for drainage, must be 1st consideration (all agreed)
- e) For maintaining as much of the existing plants as possible otherwise will make erosion and drainage worse (all agreed)
- f) Nancy P suggested contacting the El Paso County Conservation Service , she thinks of Maria Hudson for support.
- g) Leif will get that information after the meeting
- h) John Bennett also mentioned he "knows a guy or two or twenty" that he may be able to talk to for excavation and work likely for free once the plan or proposed plan is provided
- i) It was asked what is the timeline for this, answer is "Soon" it is a priority
- j) Leif also mentioned that the backyard provides a great opportunity for Member Benefits of use as a Social Club he wants this to be a discussion for future, but believes that the backyard needs to be for members use

#6 – Symposium – Leif requested to Skip This Discussion as we have a lot to discuss and running behind time

#7 Well

- a) Much discussion on the well when it was contaminated, then fixed, and attached to the cistern and proposal to have it directly piped and not via the cistern
- b) Judy mentioned ensuring testing that any fix, rerouting or repair is not affected by contamination drainage (gas / oil)

- c) Leif said all testing of the Rosenthal well has shown no contamination and will continue testing
- d) There was much discussion about the history of the land and well
- e) Using Barnhardt
- f) Estimated cost to disconnect from cistern to direct underground piping \$1500 - \$2000
- g) Shared the story of the cistern freeze during a celebration of life event at the BFCC
- h) It is believed to have been a diverter valve that froze causing the bladder in the tank to rupture
- i) It is a priority to have this done
- j) Carolyn and Don mentioned that there is “a new noise” coming from the pressure tank in the closet and Leif asked Don to call Barnhardt asap to check on this.
- k) It is likely that because this pressure tank is older, that the bladder inside may be deteriorating and need replacement

#8 Black Forest Community Foundation – Leif asked to skip this

#9 – BFCC President Message

- a) Advised that he has heard from many members, tenured and new, young and experienced that the Club Mission & Position in the community is to ensure providing events & opportunities for all ages
- b) The BFCC needs to consider more inclusion and expand welcome to all demographics, ages etc
- c) Need to create and/or bring back events that cater to a wide variety of members and ensure that young or old are not left out
- d) Possibly update and import and remember, the Mission of the BFCC as a “Social Club” and community to include all (all inclusive)
- e) Shared the story of the wood floor was originally installed for roller skating
- f) Previously had 5 different wood types
- g) Consider bringing back events the club used to have, and get creative in thinking of new activities and events
- h) Carolyn had requested to consider not all events to be full food, but maybe just snacks so all events are not catered around food
- i) Bring back Ideas such as , Travel Series, Movie night
- j) Jim Collins mentioned the NEED to grow membership, to talk directly with residents, in person, have a mailing a few times a year because not all are on social media, get out and about, meet the residents, take more
- k) How can residents or newer residents know about the rich history of the forest and the rich knowledge of the more tenured members of the board and community if we fail to reach out and reach them
- l) Suggestion via indirect comments is to Get a Club Mission (statement) and implement more ways to meet that mission

Other conversations:

- a) The club is the center of the community
- b) Community is inclusive and welcoming
- c) Perhaps start up welcome committee and go door to door
- d) Mailers
- e) Generate more enthusiasm for membership and reach the people

Member Nancy Piesecki

- a) Requested to use the BFCC to create a Town Hall Meeting that can invite Holly Williams to speak and answer questions about where she stands re:
 - Her statement that there is plenty of room to grow and expand in Black Forest
 - Yet she commented that “we are running out of water faster than anticipated”
 - Denver aquifers are depleting
 - Flying Horse North approval or sketch plan in the works
(50 casitas, 50 attached plats, hotel 3 stories, condominium development etc)
 - There was much discussion back and forth, so it was proposed that Nancy draft a letter to be sent to Holly Williams re: the invite to a Town Hall Meeting and include Terry Stokka and then bring it to the board to review and consider if “someone else” can sign the letter
 - Leif made it clear that the BFCC can provide the space, but the letter and involvement is up to the group of people Nancy can recruit in support of her cause and intention of a Town Hall Meeting

Final Questions or requests?

- Carolyn requested ideas for the next newsletter
- Tiffany proposed a story about the outhouse races since they will be part of the festival again this year 2024.
- Carolyn asked if Tiffany could write it up, Tiffany said yes

By unanimous consent first/seconded to adjourn the meeting (aprx 9pm) – ran over