*SpeakUp!* meeting notes from 11/4/2023

In person: Sandy Costa, Doug Kasper, Sherry Williams, Cynthia Powell, and Trista G. Brown

Online: Nazree Williams

Meeting called to order at 9:50 am

~ Opening inspiration from Sandy—it’s the time of year for the last harvest and the end of outside activities; we honor those who came before us and go deep into planning mode.

~ We asked Nazree to consider becoming our executive director. She could help us organize; has been working with other nonprofit organizations; and we are in keeping with her values and interests.

~ Trista told our story of beginning in 2018, and how we collaborate with other organizations and individuals.

~ We celebrated receiving our STATE TAX EXEMPTION STATUS!

~ We planned the writing of our job descriptions for board members.

~ Sandy will be sending Naz the nonprofit info for the NpLab.

~ Sandy will be working on the website—adding notes and QR code—updates due by December.

~ Our main work right now is earning $: donations, membership, fundraisers, and ***GRANTS***.

~ Voting registrar training is an hour and a half class that can be done live and zoom—sign up!

~ Trista called Chris Parker of the ABA re: a Black business summit. She suggests a tour so people know who and where these businesses are. If we collaborate—our mission is to provide information about resources.

~ We are having an Empowerment Summit on Nov. 18th on nonprofit information.

~ Get people to the website—announcements to the churches, Chamber of Commerce, different types of social media, Times Weekly, Patch, ABA, JJC.

~ We still have the raffle basket with $350.00 worth of merchandise. It would help if we each took 10 tickets to sell ($5 each; 6 for $25). We will award it by Thanksgiving. We can access the description of what is in the basket on Facebook.

~ We need e copies and physical copies of flyers for each Summit.

~ The Nonprofit Institute at USF has training opportunities; we will seek dates that work for us.

~ Sandy will add Naz to the Facebook messenger thread, email, and text thread.

~ We need new ideas for programs aimed at young people; we need more mentors and youth leaders.

~ We have a community service hour letter; if we can get these volunteers, we may also get new members.

~ Next meeting: bring your job description so that we can be official about our roles on our website.

~ Nazree suggests we look at our mission statement for possible revision that lets us be more specific about our plans for 2024.

~ We are supporting a “Listening Party” at Dianne Harris’ store from 1 – 3 pm on November 25th.

We create a lot of projects that require freedom of speech AND making sure that we are not silenced and that we do not silence others.

~ Sandy will send Nazree our historical timeline.

~ Let’s support Cynthia’s Toys for Tots campaign in Aurora and collaborate on one here in Joliet. We need to register as a provider.

~ We need to redo our grant request to Walmart and add Aldi to our list.

~ Contact the new city manager.

~ Test the new app from the fire department.

~ Closing inspiration from Naz: Happy to be with you all; your hearts are in the right place; we can meet our goals!