

FCA General Mtg Minutes

Date | time 9/14/2022 6:00 PM | Location Zoom

Meeting called by	Lisa McOmbler
Type of meeting	General Monthly
Facilitator	Lisa McOmbler, Chair
Note taker	Kandi/Lisa
Timekeeper	Lisa

Attendees :Lisa McOmbler, Melonie Ancheta, Carl McDaniel, Kandi Camacho (2nd Half), Kristi Slette, Michael Faircloth, Matthew Thuney, Erin Burke, Terri Carter, Jessica Bee,
Please read : N/A
Please bring : N/A

Agenda Items

Meeting Started at 6:05PM

Introductions: New member and editor of our new newspaper Michael Faircloth was introduced.

Acceptance of Previous Minutes – motion to accept by Carl McDaniel, seconded by Melonie Ancheta, all in favor 3 of 5 board members. 2 board members absent at time of vote.

Secretary Updates: No updates at this time

Treasurer Updates: No updates at this time

Project Updates:

- **Communications Hub** – New editor, Michael Faircloth, has been hired for the open position. Michael has already started working on the future paper. Has a strong background in graphic artistry as well and offered services to members needing this in our community work. Expected date for first edition: Dec 2022 or Jan 2023. Final edition of the Hello Neighbor will go out in November to the community and the new paper will then take over. Michael shared his vision of the paper as being a way to bring community together creating an atmosphere of inclusion of ALL people in our area and pulling local surrounding communities (such as Columbia Valley, Acme, Van Zandt, Glacier, Maple Falls, Kendall, Deming, and Welcome) together to open opportunities and share resources available to everyone.
- **Reader Board** – Kendall Principal, Erin Burke shared the progress of the new Kendall Elementary Reader Board with the group. Currently, the hold up has been the permitting process through the county. The request was submitted by the contractor and County Permits requested more information not pertaining to the project. A representative from the contractor's office is working on their end and will proceed with the project when everything is cleared to go. The install date has not been established at this time. Erin stated that she was not sure if the fabrication of the board would take place onsite or if it has already been fabricated by the contractor resulting in a speedier install once electrical contractors have completed their work. She is going to check on this.
- **CVPRD Park on Santa Fe** – Representatives from the parks commission are currently waiting on one of the commissioners to secure a process to purchase materials for the new fence. Once the fence is completed, hopefully soon, the Parks Dept plans on have a Potluck at the park for community members. The Parks Dept. staff are still asking for feedback from the community on the use of the park and to get ideas generated. They are limited on space at this location so equipment will be purchased accordingly.

Community members were invited to continue attending the CVPRD meetings each month the second Thursdays of each month at 6PM via in person or Zoom (Hybrid), to ask questions and share ideas.

- **Summerfest** – Updates given on the Summerfest event by Melonie Ancheta (Asst. Organizer) and Carl McDaniel (Lead Organizer). Estimated around 1000 attendees, 500 were estimated at the grilling station. Excellent turn out considering they only had a month to plan and pull it together. Total spent on the event was \$1719.08. Any remaining funds will be returned to WFCN as the fiscal sponsor and made available for future FCA funded projects. Kristi Slette, (WFCN), has emailed the steps required to return the funds. The FCA Treasurer is currently out of town, so this will be handled once she returns.

Takeaways from the 2022 Summerfest event:

- Organizers will schedule the event in coordination with other events in the area to maximize participation from community members and vendors who could participate in more than one event. Many vendors who participated in the Bigfoot Festival earlier in the day were not able to participate in the Summerfest event as well due to set up challenges.
- Stations for children, vendors, and activities, will be blended to avoid separation and encourage unity within the varied community groups
- Carl has already confirmed a couple of events for the 2023 event including a car show.
- It was suggested that better signage and more visible location in the school's field, would make it easier to see from the Highway and draw more people in.
- It was also suggested that perhaps we should look at another time of year to have the event (Autumn) and give it a different name to make it unique to our area and not have overlapping events going on the same day. Van Zandt Summerfest has been going on around the same month and may create some confusion.
- It was suggested that if we are trying to pull more people in, we could perhaps create a partnership with other surrounding communities to create an EAST COUNTY event and draw in people from larger surrounding cities outside of our area. This would also draw attention to this part of the county and eliminate the separation, stigma, and isolation of our smaller community. Matthew Thuney reminded the members that the Van Zandt Winterfest is coming up soon. Carl McDaniel reminded members that the Kendall PTA will have their Autumn Fest again this year at the elementary school. Michael Faircloth mentioned to the group that there will be a section in the new newspaper for an Events Calendar where these things can be posted.

Current Funding Requests: None at this time

Board Development: There is still an open Co-Chair position within the FCA executive board. Chairman, Lisa McOmber asked that all members continue to reach out to neighbors and those they know in the area who could be a good fit to apply if interested. This can be done on the FCA's website. Members who can represent the demographic groups in our area are encouraged to take part in the monthly meetings and apply.

Chair suggestion: Earlier in the year, the Board members presented the FCA General Members with the suggestion that we should potentially look at interested persons outside the Columbia Valley who are wanting to be board members. It was suggested that only a small percentage of the total number of members, i.e., 3% would be allowed from outside the CV UGA area, to maintain control of the board and its direction within the community. Funds given to the FCA from MBF are to be exclusively used to benefit the CV residents as per our Bylaws.

Open Discussion was had about continuing efforts to reach community members. It was agreed that the board would once again reach out to local churches and continue to participate in local events, social media coverage, as well as talk to their neighbors. Board members explained the many efforts made and continuing to be made to reach out to community members to get involved and be the voice of our residents. An effort to bring in new board members must start with local interest and participation in the general meetings first. Mail outs are expensive and did not result in any new members or interest. Fliers have been handed out at local events, tents

and tables placed at the doors of the Foodbank, Library, Autumn Fest at the School, Easter Egg Hunt, Spring Fair, Social Media, Through meeting invites (over 100) sent each month, Facebook Page, Website, and 2 Summerfest events. Board members have purchased a table and banner and have had a presence at many events locally, speaking to community members about our organization and our efforts. FCA Board members have partnered with the local PTA, WCSO, and participated in local litter pickup events each month as well as boxing and delivering food for the Food Bank Winter and Spring Events.

Community Suggestion: Focus on pulling together community members in some way. Meet with community church leaders, find ways to join the different groups who live here in a fun way, etc. Perhaps add games to the community dinner night to get people talking and visiting with one another. Start a Community Meals Committee and design meals to include Vegan, Vegetarian, Multi-cultural dishes.

Meeting Adjourned 8:12PM

Next General Meeting: Wednesday October 12, 2022 6PM

Other Information

Observers [Observers]

Resources [Resources]

Special notes [Special notes]