

Minutes of the RCRV Board of Directors Meeting 05/16/2007

Board Chairman Jim Green determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM.

Twenty-one members and guests signed the attendance list.

Minutes of the April Board of Directors meeting were approved as published on the web site, with minor corrections from Heidi Soethout and Angela Berns.

Program

Myrt Bowers, Director of the Witwer Senior Center, was our guest speaker, presenting information on the current status and unfolding developments at the Witwer Center.

The present building, known as the Witwer Center, opened 1981. It is owned by Linn County. Senior citizen activities once occupied most of the building, but much of the space has been allocated to other uses, so the meals, recreation, and administration area for senior citizens has shrunk to 4000 square feet.

The center serves about 1200 people per month, most of whom travel by bus. Parking in the downtown area close to the center is limited.

The center is administered by a board of directors. A primary role for that board is future planning and relocation. RCRV members Pete Jurgens and Ray Dutchik serve on the board.

The Witwer Center now serves 159,000 meals per year, transporting some meals out to other sites to service the whole county. They have recently added the Jane Boyd Center as a client for their meals program. Their mission is to address nutrition on a holistic basis, with individualized menus to address the specific needs of clients. The State of Iowa reviews menus for nutritional value. Management of selections for individuals is an administrative challenge, which could perhaps benefit from some skillfully applied industrial process engineering.

They now provide an evening meal in some cases as well as one hot meal per day to qualified clients. Where nutritional needs and medical conditions require, they also provide supplemental caloric drink.

The Center has received a grant to hire part time dietician to evaluate nutritional effectiveness of meals, especially for those with special health care needs. The present staff does a good job of balancing meal planning for various communities day-to-day, accommodating different schedules. There is funding available from Dept of Agriculture to help identify nutritional needs. They are evaluating pooling the buying power of agencies in seven county area served by Heritage to help control costs.

The staff at Witwer is always looking at research to validate Witwer management practices and policies. Aging citizens, particularly those with medical limitations, benefit greatly from having appropriate programs to stimulate and interest aging clients. The center has also brought in Department of Transportation officials to help evaluate driving qualifications and skill maintenance for older clients.

The Witwer Center places great emphasis on providing leisure activities. Newcomers are interviewed and are actively matched with mentors to ease assimilation into the group. The result is a decrease in anxiety and depression of individuals otherwise isolated in their daily lives.

Fifteen-in-Five project to develop a state of the art recreation facility in Cedar Rapids is meeting three times per month. They are planning to incorporate Ambrose Center and Witwer Center with other facilities for all ages. The current emphasis is determining where and how to establish a new facility. Pete Jurgens and others participating in the project went into the Chicago area to interview and tour facilities, particularly swimming pools. These were large and well conceived, but all were fully utilized and needed expansion. In some of these facilities, joint ownership with hospitals provides therapeutic facilities coexisting with the recreational features. Elgin, IL, has a 185,000 square foot facility that has fostered economic growth and recovery in the area.

Ms. Bowers handed out a sample of their monthly newsletter at the conclusion of her presentation.

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RCRV members expressed surprise and approval of the degree of success of the Witwer program with the limited resources available.

Committee Reports

Community Projects, John McDonough:

- * We now have four people that we will support for the Senior Leadership Institute being held by Kirkwood starting in September.
- * The Governor's Conference on Aging Awards luncheon will be held Tuesday, May 22nd, at 11:30 in the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines. We will have several attending the function, as RCRV will receive an award at that time for things that we have done in the recent past.
- * Denise Walker and Angela Berns recently held a breakfast meeting at St Lukes to kickoff the WRAP program to the nonprofits in the area. The meeting was well prepared and went off without a hitch. A job well done. Several more will occur in the near future. (RCRV submitted two more requests for help from inputs to us)
- * We delivered a pickup load and a trailer load of used treated lumber to a fenced in area located at the rear of Aging Services thanks to the efforts of Teresa Robison and Carol Luth. There is probably enough wood there to highly reduce the cost of a ramp, or maybe the entire cost of a ramp. All good wood!
- * The past quarter, RCRV only turned in 4200 hours. This is not enough to meet our commitment for 2007. We should have turned in 8700 hours. We have a ways to go!
- * Bob Ocken is working on a request from Heritage to condense the data in the Senior Resource Directory such that it can be more cost effective to produce, but transmit the same information in a format that is readily deciphered.
- * Vern Jackson and John Leeson continue to provide support to the Eastern Iowa Observatory and Learning Center located at Palisades State Park. It is scheduled to open mid July with two operational telescopes.
- * Our newsletter, the Volunteer, is out again.
- * Lots of K-12 school activities wrapping down for the summer at this time.
- * We have several home inspections scheduled to happen in the near future.

If you can dream it, we can do it.

Communications, Rod Thorpe:

The RCRV web site address has been changed to <http://www.rcrv.org/> at the request of Rockwell Collins management because of a need to maintain control of the company trademark.

The April Newsletter has been published and distributed.

Data Base, Jim Klein:

I have received two sets of the obituaries from Wilma Shadle and several miscellaneous address changes. There are also the address changes that will need to be made from the returned April newsletters. Bill Ellis and I will be updating the database in the next few days.

I also plan to request a listing from Cindy Dietz for the latest retirees for the months of January through May of this year. I will submit a new set of mailing labels to Cindy for the July newsletter before I leave in June.

Recruiting and Retention, Pete Jurgens:

RCRV/REACT appreciation picnic was well attended and enjoyed by all. Thanks to Rockwell Collins for supporting this event.

Estimate 189 active members currently.

Rockwell Collins, Jenny Becker:

Cindy is still working on the problem of providing new retirees with information about joining RCRV.

RCRV Insurance questions are also still pending.

The K12 kickoff breakfast is planned for August 17th this year.

RCRV has offered to lead tours of facilities for new employees to relieve staff workload and reduce costs to the company. Rockwell Collins management is considering security aspects of this proposal and will notify RCRV if they wish to take advantage of this offer.

Agency Reports

Aging Services, Carol Luth:

Submitted in advance: *I will be unable to attend (next week's) board meeting. I do not have a formal report from Aging Services, Inc., except to once again thank everyone for the tremendous support they give to us.*

Correctional Services, Heidi Soethout:

No report.

Four Oaks Bridge, Carol Kalous:

No report.

Grant Wood AEA, Ann Griffin:

No report.

Heart of Iowa, Myrna Loehrlein:

We have LOTS of children! Half of our preschoolers sit out each day because of space shortage. This is very disruptive to adult and child programming alike.

Heart of Iowa was well represented at a meeting with Senator Harkin. He was gathering information on substance abuse treatment in an effort to move from jail emphasis to treatment emphasis.

United Day of Caring did a wonderful job of work for us. They brought our playground up to standard by modifying equipment and adding chips and a border to keep them in. They also did quite a bit of painting for us.

Life at Heart of Iowa will only get more crowded as we move into summer programming.

Heritage Agency on Aging, Linda Dearing:

No report.

Hospice of Mercy, Sara Case:

No report.

Jane Boy Community House, Karl Cassell:

No report.

New Horizons, Mark Beason:

No report.

Options of Linn County (Wayne Clayton):

This past month we hosted a tour for an agency from New York. They were impressed with the innovative job adaptations we use from RCRV. We gave them your web site address.

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REACT, Barb Klawiter:

No report.

Red Cross, Joan Schaffer:

No report.

RSVP, Angela Berns:

RSVP:

The number of Jones County volunteers increased from 16 to 32 in four months. Potential is there for more growth. Angela wrote a grant to increase volunteer coordinator compensation to 25 hours per month. Volunteer emphasis in Jones County is on transportation for medical appointments. Meals on wheels outreach program will extend service to rural Jones County using RSVP volunteers.

United Way is changing funding allocation to emphasize outcomes. RSVP is addressing the change. The federal grant that establishes RSVP will be changed to a competitive basis. This change might result in flow of funds from RSVP to client agencies. RSVP tracking of hours is being updated, will trickle down to RCRV as a requirement to document outcome impact of hours submitted. Changed forms and procedures will be required to measure impact on clients.

WRAP:

Space is available now in the St. Lukes storage facilities. There will be a need to assess impact on Festival of Trees assembly space. Racks to hold material are also available.

Angela is conducting one-on-one meetings with committee chairmen to work out procedures and formats.

Angela has written a proposal for St. Lukes to help fund part time coordinator by next July. Planning Marketing and Publicity program will be reviewed next.

As of the meeting today, nineteen requests have been received and the work of processing these requests has begun.

St. Luke's Hospital, Denise Walker:

No report.

United Way, Mary Klinger:

No report.

Old Business

No items.

New Business

The RCRV recruiting brochure will need to be rewritten. The new web site URL will be picked up as part of the update.

Adjournment

2:48PM

The next Board meeting is June 20th at the Red Cross building.

Submitted by Don Grimm, Secretary.