

Minutes of the RCRV Board of Directors Meeting June 18, 2008

These minutes were approved at the August 20, 2008 board meeting.

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

Nineteen members and one guest attended.

Minutes from the May 21st board meeting were not available for approval.

Program: Willis Dady Emergency Shelter, Libby Jenson

A Mount Mercy social worker student founded the Willis Dady Emergency Shelter twenty years ago as a pilot project. He had, himself, been homeless, and was a recovering alcoholic, so he had first hand knowledge of the problems homeless people face.

Originally a day program, the project evolved into the shelter operation it is today, with sixteen beds and four family units. In the past year it has served 284 men and 20 families. Operational statistics show 8866 person-nights and 2624 meals provided. Average stay was 44 days. By HUD criteria, about 27% are chronically homeless.

The facility provides basic shelter, food, clothing, and hygiene items, but also provides case management services aimed at client recovery and self-improvement. They use a strategy of client-driven goals to address problems of poverty, substance abuse, mental and physical health, criminal and domestic violence, and separations. Willis Dady cooperates with partner organizations to address special needs. Some of these include Linn County Nonprofit Resource Center, Waypoint, Salvation Army, Abbe Center, Veterans Administration, Legal Aid, AA, ASAC, Iowa Workforce Development, and Horizon Credit Counseling.

Financial management at Willis Dady has successfully evolved in the environment where nonprofit funding has become more competitive, federal funding has become unreliable, and accountability standards have been raised. In 2006, United Way provided 52%; churches, business, and individuals provided 28%; State and County funding covered 15%; grants and foundations 3%; and events raised 2% of the total budget. The organization today has a small surplus. Financial contributions from individuals are always welcome.

Following the presentation, a number of questions from the board led to a discussion of success ratios, and of challenges facing Willis Dady today. When asked to discuss RCRV volunteer opportunities, Libby said there are many. She listed a need someone in morning to answer phones and coordinate requests. She also mentioned the need for assistance with lawn care. Libby will Email a list of projects to John to forward to RCRV members.

Committee Reports

Community Projects, John McDonough:

- Bad month, only had two reports to review since our last Board Meeting.
- Completed the build of a couple of ramps this period, but several more are on hold at this time due to the flood.
- RCRV is working on a method of attaching a swivel to a wheelchair to hold an umbrella but allow it to be placed in most any position. This person needs to be protected from the sun at all times but enjoys the outdoors.
- Building furniture for the Vision Enhancement Center, Carol Luth
- Freedom Festival activities postponed.
- St Lukes is sponsoring a couple of get acquainted with Medicare in September. This will be for new Medicare people.
- Keith and his wife have spent many hours providing assistance to tornado and flood victims over the past period for the American Red Cross.
- We continued to provide support to lots of programs this past period.
- If you can dream it, we can do it.

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Communications, Chuck Wehage:

Chuck Wehage was not present to give a report, but the newsletter has been printed and stuffed, and will be mailed in the next few days.

Data Base, Jim Klein:

- I am biking in North Dakota, Canada, and Minnesota this week.
- I updated the Database for the new retiree list for the months of March and April and for the obits from Wilma Shadle.
- I generated the mailing list for the current newsletter.
- I generated a mailing list of the RCRV board members at the request of Jenny Becker and sent it to her.

Recruiting and Retention, Pete Jurgens:

Pete was not present to give a report. Barbara Hoffman reported that 161 members reported hours and qualified as active as of June 1. Twenty-three additional members did not report hours in the past year, although it is apparent that many of these are still active, and some of these are key to RCRV projects such as Lego League.

Partner Agency Reports

Aging Services, (...)

No report.

Four Oaks Bridge, Milissa Yardley:

No report.

Correctional Services, Heidi Soethout:

No report.

Grant Wood AEA, Ann Griffin:

No report.

Heritage Agency on Aging, Linda Dearing:

Heritage is providing physical space for Aging Services case managers displaced by the flood.

Linda's staff is preparing a listing of available low-income housing in 100-mile radius.

Marion Churches' building will open by end of July. Nineteen units have been spoken for.

IBEW, Gerald Vuichard:

No report.

Jane Boy Community House, Karl Cassell:

No report.

New Horizons, Mark Beason:

No report.

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Options of Linn County, Wayne Clayton:

As you may have heard, Options' facility was directly affected by the flood downtown. The facility is closed and we are currently securing an alternate site, hoping to be up and running again soon. Several of our off-site crews are still operating.

In the coming days we will undoubtedly be looking to replace/supplement a number of unique RCRV devices. I imagine you'll all be in big demand as a number of agencies begin the recovery process.

Thanks for all you do.

REACT, Barb Klawiter:

No report.

Red Cross, Joan Schaffer:

No report. Keith Sutherland described some of his experiences helping with tornado response in northeast Iowa, and at flood shelters here is Cedar Rapids.

RSVP, Barbara Hoffman:

Kathy Swanson moved into a house just two months ago, and was flooded out.

National statistical highlights from RSVP

- 428,000 volunteers
- 79,000,000 hours served
- 741 projects
- 74,346 children served
- 342,416 elderly served
- \$58,600,000 federal funding
- \$59,700,000 non-federal funding

Barb attended the 2008 National Conference on Volunteering & Services, where the theme was taken from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "The Urgency of Now."

Sixth Judicial District, Heidi Soethout:

No report.

WRAP, Heidi Soethout:

No report.

St. Luke's Hospital, Denise Walker:

No report.

United Way, Mary Klinger:

No report.

Rockwell Collins, Jenny Becker:

Report incorporated into the discussion of flood relief activity under New Business.

Old Business

There have been no applications so far for a Rockwell Collins RCRV grant. Distribution of the newsletter in the next few days will be the first opportunity for many RCRV members to learn of the grant project.

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New Business

Chairman Green raised the question: "What should RCRV be doing for flood relief?"

Linda Dearing: Can we move heavy trash? What about liability? Reconstruction for aged population who can't afford to hire contractors?

Mike Wilson: Do we want to work with a single agency or with many agencies?

Jenny Becker: City has a web site to coordinate volunteer efforts at <http://www.corridorrecovery.org/CedarRapidsArea.asp>. That site can be used for individuals and agencies.

Rockwell is organizing an effort for employees and for nonprofit agencies. The following is quoted from <http://www.rockwellcollins.com/floodrecovery/#FloodRecoveryFund>:

Rockwell Collins has established the Rockwell Collins Flood Recovery Fund. This fund will enable company employees, retirees, customers, suppliers, and other friends of the company to make financial donations to flood recovery efforts.

Employees based in the United States and retirees who would like to make a donation can do so by writing a check to the Rockwell Collins Employee United Fund and indicating "flood recovery." Checks should be sent to the attention of Jolene Trout, Rockwell Collins, 400 Collins Road NE, M/S 106-176, Cedar Rapids, IA 52498.

U.S. based employees also have the options of donating through payroll deduction and through the exchange of accrued vacation time. Online forms to allow employees to select payroll deduction or exchange vacation time will be available later this week.

International employees, customers, suppliers, and other friends of the company who wish to donate can do so by writing a check to the Rockwell Collins Flood Recovery Fund, c/o the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, PO Box 9, Marion, IA 52302.

Rockwell is also planning to organize direct recovery volunteer activity by employees. The following is also quoted from the RC floodrecovery website:

Rockwell Collins is also formulating plans to mobilize teams of employees to assist in the ongoing cleanup and recovery efforts once the floodwaters recede. Company officials are coordinating with local and national disaster relief organizations to determine when and how these teams can best serve flood victims' needs. Additional information regarding the company's ongoing flood relief efforts will be provided as details are confirmed.

Linda: who will help flood victims apply to the right agencies to get financial help?

Rod Thorpe: information on how to apply is available on the corridor website. Heritage can help by adding information to the website.

Linda: Good suggestion. However, many will still require assistance to make appropriate applications.

John Wauer: RCRV has already circulated a request from Heart of Iowa for help with cleanup. Juergen Bruckner and John helped clean a number of apartments this morning. More left to do.

Keith Sutherland: Lots of people organizing, not enough people volunteering. Keith suggested taking requests for help as we usually do and respond appropriately. John Wauer suggests that RCRV can convert requests into specifics of date, time, and place to show up to work

Rod: Should we suspend ramps and WRAP activity in favor of flood cleanup for now?

John Wauer: We should continue to work projects for agencies, not for individuals.

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Barb: All RCRV volunteer workers need to have current tetanus immunization.

Rod: churches are also running a volunteer program described at the web site <http://www.servethecity.org/>.

Chairman Green summarized the above discussion by asking the group if we should continue to operate with our existing volunteer services model. According to this model, RCRV activities are conducted in response to specific requests from agencies. No form of compensation is allowed, and no RCRV-sanctioned work is performed for individuals. In recent discussion concerning WRAP, it has been established that RCRV should not attempt to undertake any project where professional licensing is required to perform the work.

Individual RCRV members may, of course, volunteer at will for any project they choose. The restrictions in the policy above are to protect all members of RCRV from liability, so they apply only to projects conducted under RCRV auspices.

The board agreed without dissent to follow this policy.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 PM.

The next Board meeting is August 20, 2008 at the Red Cross building.

Submitted by Don Grimm, Secretary.