

Minutes of the RCRV Annual Meeting 11/14/2007

Note: These minutes were approved at the 11/10/2008 Annual meeting.

Board Chairman Jim Green called the meeting to order at 1:33 P.M.

Sixteen RCRV members and four community service agency representatives signed the attendance list.

The Chairman determined that a legal quorum was present.

Approval of Previous Annual meeting minutes

Minutes of the last Annual Meeting, held November 8, 2006, at the Red Cross building, have been posted on the RCRV website for review for twelve months. Two hard copies were circulated for the benefit of those not having internet access. Charles Wehage moved those minutes be approved as posted. Don Grimm seconded the motion. Motion carried with no one opposed.

Approval of Previous Board of Directors meeting minutes

Rod Thorpe moved that the minutes of the previous Board of Directors Meeting, held October 18, 2006 be approved as posted on the RCRV website. Chuck Wehage seconded the motion. The motion carried with no one opposed.

Guest Speaker

Chairman Green introduced Cliff Ehlinger, interim director of the *Cedar Rapids Science Station*.

Cliff retired from 34 years of service at Grant Wood Area Education Agency and agreed to accept the position of director of Science Station for a transitional period of one year. His wife also assists at the Science Station.

About a year ago, the Science Station announced that it would be forced to close because of financial difficulties. The Cedar Rapids community responded with donations that forestalled this closing. The board of directors was downsized, and Dan Thies was elected president. Because the primary need was to stabilize and revitalize the financial underpinnings of the operations, the new board was constituted of community business leaders. They plan to add education, science, and engineering leaders to board as soon as possible.

A separate corporation, the Science Center, has been formed as a 501 C3 organization to raise funds and to fund the Science Station. An early priority was to liquidate the mortgages for the Imax theatre and for the Paxton building, which together burdened the operation with about a million dollars of debt. Both mortgages have now been paid.

During this difficult period, membership fell from near 2000 to about 400. Other problems included heating and ventilating breakdowns and a general need for cleanup and redecoration. Many exhibits were not working, and those have been removed from the exhibit space. Work has been done to clean the basement, but at this point substantial redecoration of the basement exhibit space is required.

The focal point of the museum at this point are three key exhibits: a You-Space display featuring frequently-updated photos from the Hubble telescope, an Astro-Bulletin display featuring news from NASA, and a Lights at Night exhibit. Recently, at the instigation of Mike Wilson, a Leggo League team has been started at the Science Station.

The Science Station is focused on three principle areas: Exhibits, education programs, and the Imax Theatre. There is planning under way to host a summer camp for kids. Exhibits featuring Dinosaurs, The Grand Canyon, mummies, and the Alps are being planned.

Some Dreams for the exhibit area include the following:

- refurbishing existing robot arms;
- KCRG will look at improvements to the weather station;

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- The Cedar Rapids Gazette is planning a display illustrating newspaper production activities, including a feature generating display for elementary students, an intermediate desk for composing a page, and an adult station to allow choosing news stories from AP news lines;
- Utilizing a grant from Aegon which provides \$25k for equipment and \$25K for operations;
- Fix basement and erect fiberglass walls to allow hosing down for cleaning. This would provide a suitable environment for the bubble table and other "wet" exhibits;
- move the early childhood area upstairs;
- Build or acquire a Child's house, such as that stocked by IKEA, working with Junior League and the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation. This would be stocked with items to promote play with items of math and science significance;
- Computer simulation area, including a flight simulator and internet-based programs with other simulations;
- Generally make exhibits more attractive.

The Science Station now needs to recruit new members. A family membership is now available for \$80.

RCRV help with exhibits has been valued in the past, and will continue to be welcomed. General volunteers of all kinds are also appreciated.

Rockwell Collins (Cindy Dietz)

No report.

Community Service (John McDonough)

There were 1025 participants over the past year at our regular weekly Community Projects Team meetings. Most of the folks attended most of the meetings. Attendance ranged from 20 to 27 participants per meeting.

Volunteer hours:

2002	4,500 hours
2003	7,500 hours
2004	12,250 hours
2005	20,500 hours
2006	29,850 hours
2007	18,400 hours through September of 2007.

K-12 hours are not included in the above hours.

RCRV has provided support to many area nonprofit agencies including but not limited to:

- Options of Linn County, RSVP, GWAEA, the Science Station, REACT, Aging Services, Heritage Area Agency on Aging, TRIAD, The Free Clinic, Jane Boyd, Heart of Iowa, the AARP Tax program, the Iowa Cultural Corridor Alliance, the Governor's Award Ceremonies, the American Red Cross, the Iowa Commission of Volunteer Service with Jack Hotchkiss being a Commissioner, the Senior Health Insurance Information Program, the 4 Oaks Bridge Program, and the Court Mediation folks.
- We provided support to the St Lukes Festival of Trees, held at the US Cellular Center last year. They have changed their plans for this year and will be holding four smaller events through this upcoming year. They still would like our support.

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- RCRV is working very closely with the new endeavor call WRAP, Wheelchair Ramp Accessibility Program. We design and lead the build of these ramps. Several of RCRV folks also help with the build of these ramps. We have built several of the ramps this past year. The WRAP effort is a Conglomerate of nonprofits across the state. We meet the first Monday AM of each month. Committees are set up to handle the various efforts needed for success of this endeavor. Angela Berns of St Lukes is leading the activities with Heidi Soethout of Corrections working closely with her.
- We again display our wares at various area seminars and programs, namely the Rockwell Collins K-12 Volunteer Fair, the 2007 Assistive Tech Exp recently held at the KTOS Center.
- The RCRV Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) Counselors assisted Rockwell Collins Retirees by presenting informational meetings to them at the KTOS Center at several meetings the past couple of weeks. Many questions were asked by them and then answered by us. Pete has done a tremendous service to RC retirees. This years Enrollment package has resulted in many questions on just what to do the get the right program for each retiree. One on one sessions are filled at St Lukes as well as at Heritage throughout the enrollment period.
- We have provided lots of mentoring and tutoring at the various schools with math and science as well as with the Lego Robotics programs.
- We have continued to support the 15-5 committee efforts.
- We provided support to the Salvation Army, and to the new Eastern Iowa Observatory and Learning Center as well as to the Linn County Trails Assn.
- Again, we have provided a great service to our folks in the immediate area. I believe that we are the only organization in the state that is company sponsored that does the many, many things that our designers and club membership does for the challenged folks of our community as well as the support provided to the area schools with the mentoring and tutoring we provide.

This brief summary provides information of what we have achieved over the past year. For more detail, you can see weekly Community Service reports on Yahoo Groups for RCRV1 and the monthly Board Reports on our web site, www.rcrv.org

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A job well done by all.

If you can dream it, we can do it.

Communications (Rod Thorpe)

Four newsletters were published during the year. The RCRV newsletter is apparently widely read. It continues to draw substantial interest and prompts numerous queries from retirees in the area.

Several RCRV members are active in the programs of Cedar Rapids area nonprofits. Several of these provide leadership on their respective boards of directors.

Data Base (Jim Klein and Bill Ellis)

1. Added new retirees to database 3 times with files from Rockwell Collins. There are currently 3,833 names in the RCRV database.
2. The database was updated based on:
 - Addresses on returned newsletters, voice mail phone messages and emails.
 - Obituaries collected for us by Wilma Shadle.
 - RCRV/RSVP registrations

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3. Provide mailing labels for:
 - RCRV newsletter
 - United Way of Eastern Iowa
4. Provided RSVP with a listing of RCRV members residing in Johnson County.

Recruiting (Pete Jurgens)

To be added when year-end membership figures are available.

Partner Agencies

St Lukes (Denise Walker)

No report.

RSVP (Angela Berns)

No Report.

Options of Linn County (Wayne Clayton)

Overview

Options of Linn County provides vocational training and support services to adults with disabilities. RCRV, by creating innovative job accommodations, has enhanced the lives of many of the people we serve.

Highlights of Activities in 2007

Assistive Technology Repaired:

In 2007, RCRV has kept our assistive tech items in good repair. The list of devices worked on includes a variety of switches, power sources and others. This is important to us because it helps our continuity of service for the consumers and it stretches a tight budget by limiting the number of items that need to be replaced.

New Assistive Technology Projects:

2007 saw the creation of a switch-driven CD player for an individual we serve. This gives him access to music he enjoys as he does contract work or repositions.

Several tri-folders were created for us. These assist consumers to quickly and accurately fold business correspondence.

A retiree also created a number of stamping devices, which improve the accuracy and consistency of consumers doing a contract job for a local business. That makes for bigger paychecks and a greater sense of achievement for those consumers.

Outreach:

The people at Options of Linn County enjoy sharing the story of RCRV with others. This year, we have had a number of opportunities to do so.

- Assistive tech discussion and demonstration for a Kirkwood College class
- Tours given to college and high school students and staff from other facilities from around the state. Representatives from an agency in New York even came by after hearing of the innovative adaptations we use.

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- Display table at the Iowa Assistive Tech Expo at KTOS in Oct 2007. Here, we shared RCRV assistive tech ideas with people from around the state, and participated in a television piece done by KWWL-TV.
- Options Open House in Oct 2007. This event featured tours that included displays of job adaptations created by RCRV.

The Look Ahead

RCRV plays an important role in improving the quality of life for people with disabilities in our community. The staff and consumers of Options recognize and appreciate the impact you make.

In the coming year, we plan to work closely with RCRV, taking advantage of opportunities to meet the changing needs of the consumers. In fact, we have a couple of projects in the works already. Thank you for your service.

Hospice of Mercy (Sara Case):

No Report.

Sixth Judicial District (Heidi Soethout)

Thank you to all RCRV members who participated in community service programs during the year.

In dealing with nonprofit agencies throughout the country, Heidi has had questions from outside the state from people who have heard of RCRV and its mission in the community.

Heart of Iowa (Myrna Loehrlein)

No report

United Way (Mary Klinger)

No report.

Heritage Agency on Aging (Linda Dearing)

No report.

Aging Services (Carol Luth)

Theresa Robinson is now assigned part time to supporting the WRAP coalition. WRAP members commented that she is doing an excellent job of organizing and tracking applications for WRAP services.

Bob Ocken has done a client services data base to help track Aging Services activities.

The Senior Home safety Inspection program is being redesigned.

Jim Spencer has joined the Aging Services board of directors.

Volunteers are needed now for repair work for seniors living in their own or rented homes.

Jane Boyd (Karl Kassel)

No report.

Red Cross (Joan Schaffer)

No report.

REACT (Barb Klawiter)

No report.

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Bridge, Four Oaks (Carol Kalous)

No report.

Other Reports:

None.

Old Business:

No new news on liability insurance issue. John Anderson of the WRAP committee has provided a form for a letter that each member may send to his insurance company to assure that his insurance coverage is applicable to WRAP-related activities. It is recommended that John be invited to address the RCRV board, and possibly to join RCRV.

New Business

Rockwell Collins has offered a financial grant to be made available to RCRV-designated recipients. RCRV board is drafting a policy to govern this process. That policy should be available during January 2008.

Election of Members and Officers.

Moved by Jim Spencer, Seconded by Keith Sutherland, to elect the nominating committee slate by acclamation. There were no objections and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Adjournment

The next Board of Directors meeting will be January 16, 2008. The next RCRV Annual Meeting will be November 19, 2008

No further business was offered, and Chairman Green adjourned the Annual Meeting at 2:53pm.

Submitted by Donald Grimm, Secretary.

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Note: These minutes are subject to amendment and approval at the next Annual meeting.

Appendix 1 Board of Directors Elected for 2008

Officers

Chairperson	Jim Green
Vice Chairperson	Rod Thorpe *
Secretary	Don Grimm
Treasurer	Arlo Meyer
Community Projects	John McDonough
Recruiting/Retention	Pete Jurgens
Communications	Chuck Wehage
Agency Liaison	Angela Berns
Data Base	Jim Klein
Rockwell Collins	Cindy Dietz

Community Agencies

RSVP	Barbara Hoffman
Options of Linn Co.	Wayne Clayton
Grant Wood AEA	Ann Griffin
United Way	Mary Klinger
Red Cross	Joan Schaffer
Heritage	Linda Dearing
Four Oaks Bridge	Melissa Yardley
Aging Services	Carol Luth
Sixth Judicial Dist.	Heidi Soethout
St. Lukes Hospital Rehabilitation Svcs.	Denise Walker
IBEW	Gerald Vuichard
New Horizons	Mark Beason
REACT	Barb Klawiter
Jane Boyd	Karl Cassell

Retiree Members

RCRV	Keith Sutherland
RCRV	Jack Hotchkiss
RCRV	Wilma Shadle
RCRV	Richard Kittrell
RCRV	John Wauer
RCRV	Les Haerther
RCRV	Ed Holstrom
RCRV	Bill Ellis
RCRV	Jack Rector
RCRV	Vern Jackson
RCRV	Mike Wilson
RCRV	Jim Spencer
RCRV	Fred Rogers
RCRV	Bob Ocken
RCRV	Cliff Koop
RCRV	Tom Brennom
RCRV	Jack Murphy
RCRV	Helen Potthoff
RCRV	Kay Nelson
RCRV	Judy Wirth
RCRV	Faye Spading
RCRV	Colleen Bickford
RCRV	Phyllis Brooks
RCRV	Jim Wolfe
RCRV	Bob Chapman

* Note: minutes corrected 1/12/2008 to show Rod Thorpe. Originally posted in error as Keith Sutherland. Change posted by Don Grimm, Secretary.