

Minutes of the RCRV Board of Directors Meeting April 16, 2008

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

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

Eighteen members and one guest attended.

Tom Brennom moved approval of the minutes from the March 13th board meeting. Mike Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Introductions

Rod Thorpe introduced our guest speaker for today, Mary Beth Minges, Executive director of the Four Oaks Bridge since early this year. Rod noted that Jack Rector, Vern Jackson, and he serve on the Four Oaks Advisory Board.

Program: Four Oaks Bridge, Mary Beth Minges

Mary Beth was alerted the job opening at Four Oaks by Carol Kalous, former Bridge director. She has a background in teaching. She joined Four Oaks in mid February. She is working to rebuild Bridge as an achievement center to give direction and purpose to at-risk kids. Her method centers on developing and reinforcing things done at school in a somewhat less structured setting.

She began her restructuring of the program with an evaluation of what happens when children arrive. She is now introducing more structure into the program so that kids know what to expect and what is expected of them when they arrive. She is now expanding programming with activities such as drama, debate club, and is attempting to establish a Lego League program.

Who comes to Four Oaks? Their kids range from kindergarten through sixth grade students from Johnson, Arthur, Garfield, Franklin, and Polk schools. Over 60 percent of the children rely on reduced price lunches at school. The annual fee \$65 per child. They arrive at 3:00 PM and leave at 6:00 PM. Costs not covered by fees are derived strictly from private donations.

Four Oaks is always looking for volunteers. The greatest need now is for individual mentors to spend a half hour at a time with individual children, working on things like computer skills, homework, and to create fun activities for those who need to establish relationship with adult. Volunteers are also needed to work with the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program. Engineers from RC have had great influence with third graders. Volunteers will also be needed to help with the Lego League program when that is established.

Questions and Answers:

- How many volunteers work at Four Oaks now? There are a dozen or so.
- How many Children are enrolled? About 55 to 60.
- Is the Bridge a subset of Four Oaks? Yes. The founding mission of Four Oaks is to serve families in crisis. The Bridge is part of a Four Oaks initiative called Prevention.
- Is the focus limited to those neighborhoods mentioned? Yes.
- Who provides transportation? NTS and others.
- Do the children have most problems with ability or with motivation? Ability is definitely not the problem. The program aims to build self-respect and to relationship skills.

Final comments:

The environment with like-minded kids greatly facilitates learning when proper leadership and structure are established. Part of Mary Beth's roll is training staff to take advantage of the opportunities that exist.

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Committee Reports

Community Projects, John McDonough:

We continue to support the REACT Center, the free clinic, the RCRV Board Meeting, Pierce Kindergarten Science classes, the Lego program, the Meth-wick Computer Training classes, as well as the SHIIP counseling at their facility.

TRIAD folks will present an Identity Theft Seminar, a "Don't be scammed" seminar, and Investment and insurance Fraud Seminars as part of the Money Smart Program.

The Science Station displays are being updated by RCRV. Rick Martin is transporting veterans from CR to the Vets Hospital in Iowa City and Coralville.

Chuck Wehage transported a 16-year-old kidney patient from Peoria to Rochester and back last week.

Several RCRV folks participated in the WRAP meeting this past week.

We continue to support the Eastern Iowa Observatory and Learning Center in preparation for the May 10 open house at the facility. Several of the ladies painted at the facility this past week.

Again, we are providing Insurance assistance to seniors in the area via the SHIIP program.

Several volunteers provided assistance at Pierce school again this year with the build and tear down of the Space Shuttle in their gym.

We repaired several items for Ann Griffin of Grant Wood AEA.

The RCRV / REACT Center Appreciation event will again be held at Squaw Creek Park at the Prairie Oak Lodge on April 25 starting at 4 PM. We hope we will not get a snowstorm on that date.

Free Dress Rehearsals are being offered to RCRV membership: "Cinderella" at Kennedy High School on 4/23/08 starting at 1:30PM; "Aida" at Linn-Mar High School on 4/23/08 starting at 4 PM; and "The Music Man" at Jefferson on 5/7/08 starting at 1:00 PM. If you want to attend, you need to call the Cedar Rapids or the Linn-Mar Volunteer office.

If you can dream it, we can do it.

Communications, Chuck Wehage:

The next newsletter will be produced during the next couple weeks.

Data Base, Jim Klein:

No report.

Recruiting and Retention, Pete Jurgens:

Two or three new volunteers are joining per month. Pete will have new totals next month.

Partner Agency Reports

Aging Services, Carol Luth:

The agency relocated its Vision Center last Friday. They are conducting a series of open houses to acquaint people with new location.

Four Oaks Bridge, Melissa Yardley:

No report.

Correctional Services, Heidi Soethout:

No report.

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Grant Wood AEA, Ann Griffin:

No report.

Heritage Agency on Aging, Linda Dearing:

Heritage has begun organizing this year's Senior Leadership Institute. Linda has conducted planning meetings, and individual task forces will begin meeting soon.

A series of Money Smart Week lectures was conducted. The focus now is on conducting meetings to help seniors file tax returns to qualify for US Government Stimulus payments. Advice is now available on the 211 hot line. Heritage and AARP will continue a joint program promoting tax returns until October 15.

IBEW, Gerald Vuichard:

No report.

Jane Boyd Community House, Karl Cassell:

Youth development:

- Lego League team received "Best Rookie Team" award.
- Jane Boyd developed the strand to expand the "Academy for Scholastic Excellence" at Jane Boyd for African-American youth in third through eighth grades.

Sports:

- Installed three indoor driving range cages for golf for use by both youth and adults as part of the "Great Grades, Great Golf" program.
- The fourth annual ESCO Group Jane Boyd Golf Classic will be held May 19th, 2008, at Elmcrest Country Club.

Summer Camp for youth ages five to fourteen years opens June 16th, for seven weeks.

New Horizons, Mark Beason:

No report.

Options of Linn County, Wayne Clayton:

This past month several program managers and I toured a partner agency, Aging Services. Carol Luth shared the mission of her agency and showed us a number of assistive devices to help consumers with hearing and vision deficits. Thank you, Carol.

REACT, Barb Klawiter:

No report.

Red Cross, Joan Schaffer:

Friday, May 2, is the date for the third annual Big Bash event at PS Air Hangar. A military theme reminds people of the historical Red Cross affiliation with the military services. The event will feature food, entertainment, and auction items. Tickets are on sale. Contact Joan.

"Saving Lives," a series of presentations on Red Cross effects on lives, has been ongoing since January. Contact Joan to learn of the presentations schedule.

In terms of Red Cross activity, the weather in the area has been calm up until now, but there will always be a risk of severe weather disasters.

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RSVP, Barbara Hoffman:

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Sixth Judicial District, Heidi Soethout:

No report.

WRAP, Heidi Soethout:

No report.

St. Luke's Hospital, Denise Walker:

Denise has been gearing up for the annual brain-injury prevention program for kids. St Lukes will participate with North Liberty in conjunction with RAGBRI to distribute free helmets.

United Way, Mary Klinger:

No report.

Rockwell Collins, Jenny Becker:

No report. Cindy and Jenny both are at the national Lego convention.

Old Business

The RCRV Advisory Board reviewed a proposed draft of a policy to manage applications and allocate Rockwell Collins grant money as discussed in previous meetings. Copies of this policy and of the proposed applicant materials are now available to review, and will be available on the RCRV web site in a few days. Jim Green briefly discussed these documents with the Board. After review by RCRV members, these will be submitted for approval of the board at the May meeting.

Questions and Answers:

- Will 501c3 qualification be a requirement for all applicants? Others, including schools, can qualify. Any applicant must meet Rockwell Collins requirements for grant recipients.
- What is the role of Board of Directors in the selection process? A separate selection committee will select the recipients. This choice will not be modified by the Board, but will be approved or disapproved before submitting to Rockwell Collins for final approval.
- What constitutes RCRV membership for purposes of this policy document? Please refer to Section IV of the RCRV Bylaws on the RCRV web site at <http://www.rcrv.org/rcrvbylw.PDF> for details.
- All RCRV members and partner agencies are urged to review the direct comments before the next board meeting to Jim Green at jgreen@aea10.k12.ia.us.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 PM.

The next Board meeting is May 21 at the Red Cross building.

Submitted by Don Grimm, Secretary.