

Minutes of the RCRV Board of Directors Meeting October 15, 2008

Note: These minutes were approved at the Annual Meeting November 19, 2008.

Board chairman Jim Green determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM. Twenty-one members and one guest attended.

Minutes

John McDonough moved approval of the minutes of the September board meeting. Bill Ellis seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Program: Four Oaks, Jim Ernst

Jim Ernst introduced his presentation by distributing copies of a supplement to the Sunday, October 12, Cedar Rapids Gazette featuring Four Oaks and describing its many roles in the community.

Jim Ernst joined Four Oaks in 1979. The organization itself was founded 35 years ago as residential group home with eight boys. Some of original board members still serve on the board. From that beginning, Four Oaks moved from strictly residential treatment to fostering return of children back into a home environment. Finding by experience that parents sometimes were not able to handle the responsibility, Four Oaks began a program to support foster homes. Today there are 5000 kids in foster home in state of Iowa. Four Oaks today has custody of 250 kids in various group home situations. About 2½ years ago, Four Oaks was asked to assume management of two low-income housing complexes in financial difficulty. Today, Four Oaks provides management support for 500 units of housing in the area.

Then the floods came. For Oaks was asked to expand its low income housing management to support low income housing flood recovery. In this role, they evaluate proposals made to the city. Is it affordable? Is it sustainable? (construction, insulation, etc) Does it fit the neighborhood?

In addition, Four Oaks administers the state Jumpstart program. In this program there were 150 applications submitted last week, 400 this week, and Jim Ernst expects to see about 1700 total applications. The program will provide either rehabilitation or rental assistance, depending upon the needs in each individual case. Short-term responses in this program are nearly complete, but long term will take more time.

Q/A Mike Wilson: How many homes need short-term action? Probably about 100. About 246 homes will be destroyed. About 500 to 1000 homes are yet to be decided. One example of a difficult situation: Aid is targeted to home owners, but many houses are owned by parents and occupied by adult children.

Q/A Keith Sutherland: Will rehab programs benefit slum landlords? The next round of assistance will include benefits for landlords in order to address affordable housing, but with stipulations on property conditions and landlord responsibility.

Q/A Chuck Wehage: What do you make of the Nebraska law allowing abandonment of older children? The situation is really unknown. Sometimes problems may be overwhelming to parents. In many cases, early intervention to help parents may be the most effective response to rescue the child.

Q/A Don Grimm: What is Four Oaks financial condition? As with most not-for-profit organizations, the flood hurt, and times are tough, but challenges can be met. The Four Oaks annual budget \$35million. Services are provided throughout Iowa, to 14000 kids.

Q/A Jim Green: Can RCRV help four oaks? One hands-on project is a flooded apartment building donated to Four Oaks that need rehabilitation. In that connection, Rod Thorpe invited Four Oaks to send a representative to the Community Projects Thursday meetings. Dave Oclair of Four Oaks is the contact person for John McDonough.

Committee Reports

Communications, Chuck Wehage:

The July issue of the Volunteer is on web site, is printed and mailing is in process.

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A new brochure is being designed for RCRV by Kirkwood students. Reviewers found several problems in early drafts. The Kirkwood students will have to make significant changes to address some of the issues.

Community Projects, John McDonough:

- We met at the Hiawatha Care Center this past period so that Jack and his wife could participate. It worked out fine. They had a nice area for us to meet plus they provided coffee and rolls for us.
- We have agreed to convert TV's from analog to digital at Heritage Area Agency on Aging Case Workers request. They will request through me via email. I will then forward these requests to our members via distribution listing.
- Again, we support the REACT Center, the company museum, the WRAP program by designing and building various ramps in our locale as well as in the Vinton area. We also support the Free Clinic, Lego programs throughout our area schools, the Salvation Army, and the EIOLC (Eastern Iowa Observatory and Learning Center).
- We are gearing up to present the Rockwell Collins Insurance program to retiree's on October 27, 28, 29 and November 3, 2008 either at 10 or at 1:30. We will have a training session for SHIIP counselors from our area including Anamosa and from Iowa City. Open enrollment will be from 10/27 thru 11/16 either by phone or on-line.
- We are doing lots of volunteer activities for St Lukes Festival of Trees Program again this year. We will be needing more volunteers to complete the various tasks we have signed up to do.
- We have installed and finished wall board, and installed kitchen cabinets for Kathy Swanson's home on Ellis Blvd.
- We are continuing to assist in flood repair activities.
- In the last period, we have continued to provide SHIIP counseling to lots of Linn County residents. RCRV now has 12 active counselors.

If you can dream it, we can do it.

Data Base, Jim Klein:

- The database was updated for a few address changes and for the obituaries sent to me by Wilma Shadle.
- Made an Excel mailing label file of the Rockwell Collins employees who have retired between January 1, 2008 and August 31, 2008. I sent this file to RSVP to be used to mail out information to the retirees about RCRV and RSVP. This was approved at the September 25, RCRV board meeting.
- Question of spouse continuing to receive newsletter after employee spouse dies. This will have to be handled on an individual basis.

Recruiting and Retention, Pete Jurgens:

No report.

Partner Agency Reports

Aging Services, Carol Luth:

No report.

Four Oaks Bridge, Mary Beth Minges:

The Lego League team has met four times. One disappointment is that there are no girls on the team. Team members are very enthusiastic.

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The stock market class taught by Vern Jackson is very timely, providing good insight to the students on the way financial markets work.

There is a math study group with volunteers from Coe College, and there is also a Coe music study group. All together, there are 20 volunteers, Coe, Kirkwood, Mount Mercy, and RCRV.

Correctional Services, Heidi Soethout:

There will be a blood drive at Corrections on October 31. It is open to all donors from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Feel free to wear a costume!

Community Work Crew leaders were hired in July to facilitate community service projects. Please let Heidi know of any projects in the community that could use this resource.

Corrections is seeking to hire AmeriCorp members to perform community service. The current need is for one half-time position and two quarter-time positions.

Volunteer tax preparation assistants are needed for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, a Central Cedar Rapids Weed and Seed initiative. These volunteers will provide free income tax preparation to those with low to moderate incomes. Other volunteer opportunities exist within the VITA project. Please call the Volunteer Reception Center at 319-540-4810.

Grant Wood AEA, Ann Griffin:

No report.

Heritage Agency on Aging, Linda Dearing:

Heritage is taking reservations for the medical insurance training sessions to be held at KTOS again this year.

An RCRV volunteer is needed at the FEMA meeting on Monday to staff the SHIIP table. Another RCRV representative would be welcome to help staff the Heritage table.

Q/A Are there significant insurance coverage changes this year? Most changes affect those under 65.

Heritage has received a grant to support advertising for SHIIP from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

IBEW, Gerald Vuichard:

No report.

Jane Boy Community House, Karl Cassell:

A panel discussion entitled *Community Conversations* will be held Saturday, November 1st, at the Jane Boyd Community House from 1:00 to 3:30 PM. Panel members include Marcella David, UI professor of law and international studies, Brian Fagan, Cedar Rapids city council, and Erica Townsend-Bell, UI assistant professor of political science. Karl Cassell will moderate. The topic is *America's Next Administration -- Election 2008*.

New Horizons, Mark Beason:

No report.

Options of Linn County, Wayne Clayton:

We continue to replace RCRV job adaptations destroyed in the flood. Several projects are completed and a couple more in progress. Next week we will also host our first Kirkwood class tour since we moved to Hawkeye Downs. We always take those opportunities to discuss our experiences with RCRV.

The Linn County Board of Supervisors approved six-month lease at for Options at the former Target west store site.

REACT, Barb Klawiter:

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Red Cross, Joan Schaffer:

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RSVP, Barbara Hoffman:

Third quarter membership report:

- 125 volunteers 7,389.25 hours
- To date hours: 22,171 hours

Update on Disaster Recovery

- 52 volunteers 2,846.5 hours of service value \$46,255.00

RSVP is in the process of sending an RCRV/RSVP volunteer recruiting letter to 2008 Rockwell retirees

The RSVP Breakfast of Champions event yesterday was a big success. A photo of the event was shown on the KCRG-TV weather program during the 6:00 PM news.

WRAP, Angela Berns:

No report.

St. Luke's Hospital, Denise Walker:

No report.

United Way, Mary Klinger:

No report.

Rockwell Collins, Jenny Becker:

No report.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

November 19th is the annual meeting. Notification of the membership will be conducted via Email.

Nominating committee Chairman Jim Green appointed Vern Jackson, Judy Wirth, and Don Grimm as the nominations committee. All interested in serving on the board in some capacity are urged to contact any member of the committee.

Chairman Green asked for suggestions for publicizing RCRV. Linda Dearing offered an interview on the Kirkwood channel for that purpose.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

The next Board meeting is in January. The RCRV Annual Meeting will be held November 19, 2008 at the Red Cross building. The next Board of Directors meeting will be January 21, 2009

Submitted by Don Grimm, Secretary.