



IFM Meeting of the Board and Member Churches, June 27, 2017

Board Officers Present

Kate Laferriere, Development Director
Bob Thurman, President
Rick Kahil, Vice-President
Kathy Mollet, Treasurer

Board Members Present

Debi Johnson, First Baptist, G.V
Jeff Hebert, St. Canice Catholic
Janet Kelly, Christian Science Church
Keith Johnson, Unitarian Universalist
Marnie Ratkovsky, Emmanuel Episcopal
Jim Schroeder, Peace Lutheran
Tim Gizzi, Calvary Bible
Nancy Koring, St. Patrick's
Pam Sufleski, Sierra Presbyterian
Nancy Senger for Joan Denzler, Sierra Pines United Methodist

Absent

Sue Van Son, Executive Director
Mary Ellen Tracy, Secretary
Judi Wade, Twin Cities
Gaye Rogers, Grace Lutheran
Hilary Dart, Sierra Center for Spiritual Living
Diane Chang, Seventh Day Adventist
Joan Denzler, Sierra Pines Methodist
Cheri Eckholt, Grass Valley United Methodist

The board meeting came to order at 9:13 AM on June 27, 2017. Kate Laferriere led us in prayer.

Jeff Hebert motioned to approve the May 2017 board meeting minutes with one change – the church involved with the volunteer luncheon was Peace Lutheran, not Grace Luthern. The motion was seconded by Joan Denzler and approved unanimously.

OPS UPDATE (Bob leading with others contributing in Sue Van Son's absence)

Saturday distribution update (led by Rick Kahil and Bob Thurman)

- A work in process – growth from 10 to 18 families with 3 new families each Saturday so far out of the 24 families
- Advertising differently now (Laundromats, section 8 housing and social media)
- Paired down staffing for lower volume
- Both United Way and IFM confirmed commitment to this program for the 6 month pilot and beyond
- No major changes will be made in the 6 month trial but by the end of the 5th month the Executive Board will bring a recommendation to the full board for the go forward plan
- We are trying to learn everything we can about why it is working and not working during the trial

Safety and Security

- Bob told the board that the safety of our volunteers and staff has been more of a concern lately given an increase in the number of uncomfortable client interactions (3 in the last month)
- Bob expressed to the board that providing a safe environment for all is a very high priority and that alternatives are being investigated on how to handle this going forward
- The recent incidents were successfully dealt with by Sue and Kate with at times assistance from the Grass Valley Police
- Bob asked for a discussion for any ideas and advised the board on alternatives being investigated
- It was suggested that we need to reinstitute the De-Escalation Training ASAP and keep it going regularly (Sue's responsibility)
- Kate reminded everyone that each incident must be documented
- Keith mentioned that there was a recent incident with a volunteer being bitten by a dog. This needs to be followed up ASAP
- Nancy mentioned that consideration should be given to all IFM activities, including things like cooking classes
- A recommendation will be made to the board after careful consideration at the August board meeting

Food Bank Relationship

- Work continues on collaboration with NC Food Bank
- For the first time Sue and Bob met with a NC Food Bank member
- Additionally Sue met with John (new Executive Director) twice recently
- IFM and NC Food Bank will partner for Thanksgiving and Christmas with the distribution taking place at IFM with NC Food Bank providing some food

Gutters

- IFM received a grant from Teichert for gutter replacement (\$4214)
- The fascia board has already been replaced at IFM's expense (boards were rotted)

Parking Lot Repairs

- This will be a project that needs to be addressed next year as degradation continues to occur due to a high water table
- Bob is leading the effort to pre-plan what is necessary and will have more information in the coming months

FUND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE – led by Kate Laferriere

Gala Event

- Kate thanked all the volunteers involved not only for their hard work in pulling off the event but also in their flexibility in dealing with last minute things that came up
- There were lots of lessons learned that will be kept on hand and reviewed before the next gala
- The event raised over \$32.1K which has already been used to pay down the building loan
- Nancy thanked Kate for her diligence and commitment to the entire gala process (lots of work!)

Safeway – Bag Summer Hunger Program

- As mentioned last board meeting this is a new drive done in the summer but is much like the Christmas food drive
- It was eventually determined that volunteers were needed to man the drive but the request was late coming from Safeway
- Kate and her husband manned the drive for some hours and found that with a volunteer present that 3 times the amount of bags were purchased leading to the conclusion that we should always have volunteers present
- Kate would like to develop a Store Ambassador Program so people are already signed up for this type of work when the need arises as it is too difficult to recruit randomly and at the last minute
- Grocery Outlet will be doing their Independence From Hunger event in July and volunteers will be needed for that event – Board Members were advised to get the word out to their congregations to ensure that Kate is better provided with volunteers and not left holding the bag (literally!)
- Bob thanked Kate for always being present at all the events and acknowledged her commitment

Grants

- Recently received grants include Teichert (\$4.2K) and Elks of Grass Valley (\$2K)
- Up next are Wells Fargo and SaveMart
- Grants are on schedule

Volunteer luncheon

- Kate thanked Jim Schroeder from Peace Lutheran for providing the facility for the luncheon
- There were 69 attendees (lower than previous years)
- Kate would like to explore other ways of thanking volunteers so if you have any ideas, board members are asked to send an email to Kate as soon as you can

Church Food Drive

- September is Hunger Action Month
- Member churches are asked to have some sort of food drive one day during that month (each congregation can choose how they wish to carry it out)
- Board members were asked to let their pastors know and ensure that something is planned in each congregation
- This is in lieu of the Postal Workers Food Drive
- Non-member churches and clubs are also encouraged to have a drive during September

Run for Hunger Update

- The event is now scheduled for October 7th
- Final approval is close – it is currently with the City Manager (last step)

GENERAL BUSINESS (led by Bob Thurman)

Treasurer replacement

- Kathy explained that two candidates that were brought forward didn't work out but that there is a new candidate that will be met with at the end of July that looks promising
- The Executive Committee decided it was worth looking at splitting the Treasurer role into two positions (Bookkeeper and a more traditional Treasurer role)
- There is an existing IFM volunteer that has expressed interest in the Bookkeeping role

Pastor meeting

- Bob mentioned that he heard back from more congregations and that a meeting will be set for sometime in September (TBD)
- It will be a casual lunch meeting

Next Board Meeting

- There will be no July meeting
- The August board meeting will have a full agenda (2nd quarter review, etc.)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25AM