**Village Connections**

**Board Meeting**

**December 15, 2022**

**6:00 pm**

**German Village Society Meeting Haus Scheurer Room**

President Kim Cowie called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

**Members Present: Brenda Gischel, Bill Curlis, Betty Garrett, Kim Cowie, Ed Elberfeld, Jim Plunkett, Scott Blake**

**Attending:** Donald Wiggins, Executive Director, Nikki McFadden, Service & Communications Manager, Barb Elberfeld, Jim Cole, and Jim Cowie

***Approval of October 2022 Minutes***

Kim Cowie, President, presented the minutes of October 2022.

**MOTION:** Toapprove the minutes of the October 2022 Board of Trustees meeting.

[Curlis, Gischel]

Motion approved.

***December 2022 Financial Report***

The financial report was emailed to all board members. Jim Plunkett reported that we have $40,010 in the checking account, $70,860 in cash, and $95,000 in liquid assets. The stock portfolio has $97,000, including $30,000 in CDs. The CDs were paying 4% interest. We have lost $10,450 in market value.

Everyone should have received a copy of the auditor’s report via email. The auditor found nothing. For clarification, we are required to have a financial review every year and an audit every other year.

**MOTION**: To approve the financial report for December 2022 for audit.

[Curlis, Elberfeld]

Motion approved.

***2022 Budget***

Jim reported no major changes for the 2023 budget. Kim said that salaries and fringe benefits have been calculated at a maximum of what we could spend, leading to the only increase in the budget. They did so because they want to remain competitive should they need to replace a staff member.

Bill said that we need to vote on a balanced budget. He proposes to increase the amount on the “individuals” line under Community Fund Raising to $6,000 from $3,500. By consensus, the budget was revised to place $6,000 in the Community Fundraising budget entry.

Kim announced that the Franklin County Office on Aging (FCOA) has changed the focus of its grant. It is focused on the underserved population, and Village Connections does not have a lot of members who fall in that category. Donald spoke with the Grant Administrator, who said that Village Connections should pass through their channels and receive the grant again this year. The office staff will be writing it this year, with the support of Kim, Sarah Lutz, and other villages.

Kim is also cautiously optimistic that we will receive the grant this year, but with changing people and priorities, she wants to make everyone aware that may be a time when we won’t have this source of funding. Bill said that when the organization started, the board did not want to rely on public funds.

Ed asked why the Marketing budget decreased to $2,500 from $3,000 the year before. Kim said that the marketing committee only spent about $150 in 2022. Ed wants to do a marketing campaign in 2023 to gain new members, which will add more revenue. Kim said that if membership and marketing want to do that and the cost is more than budgeted, they can propose a budget amendment.

**MOTION:** To approve the 2023 Budget

[Curlis, Elberfeld]

Motion approved.

**Committee Reports:**

***Marketing Committee Report***

Executive Director, Donald Wiggins, will report on marketing during his report.

***Membership Committee Report***

Ed reports that we are well with the number of social members. Renewals have been spread out over the year through several giving opportunities. However, he is concerned about regular members. We will start 2023 with 6 fewer service-receiving members, which means $3,000 less in membership dues. He anticipates that more of our service-receiving members will move or drop out in the next year. He wants to have a robust marketing campaign to recruit regular members. Ed said that if the marketing campaign is successful, we will raise revenue.

Kim said that membership and services should meet and discuss creating policies keeping current members who move out of our catchment area and what that could look like (numbers of miles outside our catchment area, would we open the offer to their neighbors). The service committee should be included to make sure we can fulfill their service needs. Ed says that he can present a policy proposal at the next meeting.

Brenda says German Village is well represented in Village Connections and the organization has a lot of visibility in the neighborhood. That is not the case in the other neighborhoods. They have not been bombarded enough about Village Connections.

Ed suggested that it’s time to create a causative plan (5-year and 10-year plans). Donald said that the last one was successful because we laid out the goals of the organization and were focused on them. A tentative date for the retreat to create a causative plan was set for February 18th from 10:00 am—2:00 pm at the Meeting Haus. All board members and committee chairs will be invited.

***Services Committee Report***

Nikki will talk about the friendly caller program in her report. Barb is now meeting with each new volunteer before they start. There is also a new volunteer handbook. Barb wants all board members to have a copy. Nikki will email it to the board members. The new member directory is ready to go and board members will receive it after the meeting.

***Nomination Committee Report***

Bill says that he has nothing to report. Donald says that there are plans to meet with potential board members.

***Events Committee Report***

Donald said that the holiday party is tomorrow at the Meeting Haus. We are looking for someone to chair the events committee. Brenda volunteered and was named the new Events Committee chair.

***President’s Report***

Kim hit all the high points already.

***Executive Director’s Report***

Donald reported that Village Connections Earned $13,711.78 on Giving Tuesday. Carolyn and Kurt donated $5,000 to Giving Tuesday, qualifying Village Connections for the matching $5,000. We also earned an additional $190 of matching funds. We raised an additional $9,355 for the annual appeal, so our total is $23,688.78. Donald is going to add in the money from the birthday party because those who gave during the birthday will not give during the annual appeal. The combined total is $35,041, a 10% increase over last year.

Donald said that we also recently picked up a new business sponsor, our insurance company W.E. Davis.

Donald will be delivering the Christmas Eve meal to 12 members.

***Service & Communications Manager Report***

Nikki said that the pilot of the friendly caller program is going well. It started at the end of October. One volunteer was able to identify services a member needed, and we were able to have that coordinated. A member also told Nikki that she was very excited to be a part of the program because she had a lot in common with her volunteer. Barb clarified that the friendly caller program pairs volunteers with some of our most vulnerable members. The volunteers call them once a week to see if they are okay and strengthen relationships. It helps maintain communications and engages members and volunteers at a higher level.

The NxGen program ended in October, but one of the group members became a volunteer. He is coming to the party and is a snow warrior for us this winter.

In November, Village Connections had 210 hours of volunteer service and so far in December have done 88 hours, and year to date in 2022, we have 1,953 volunteer service hours.

***Old Business —***None

***New Business*** —None

**Adjournment**

**MOTION:** To adjourn.

[Curlis, Gischel]

Motion Approved

The business of the December 2022 meeting of Village Connections having been concluded the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Curlis, Secretary

Attest: Kim Cowie, President

Nikki McFadden, Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting:** February 23, 2023