**Village Connections**

**Board Meeting**

**August 25, 2022**

**6:00 pm**

**German Village Society Meeting Haus Scheurer Room**

Vice President Betty Garrett called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

**Members Present: Brenda Gishel, Carolyn Workman, Betty Garrett, Scott Blake, Fran Schneider, Bill Curlis, Ed Elberfeld, Jim Plunkett, A Quorum is present.**

**Attending:** Donald Wiggins, Executive Director, Nikki McFadden, Service & Communications Manager, Baaba Ampah, AmeriCorps VISTA Partner, and Barb Elberfeld.

Donald Wiggins asked for a moment of silence to remember board member, Edna Menke.

***Approval of June 2022 Minutes***

Betty Garrett, Vice President, presented the minutes of June 2022. Fran Schneider noted the minutes stated that the officer’s term expired in June of 2022. Bill Curlis motioned to amend and approve.

**MOTION:** Toapprove the minutes of the June 2022 Board of Trustees meeting pending an amendment of the officers’ term from June 2022 to June 2023.

[ Brenda Gishel, Ed Elberfeld]

Motion approved.

***August 2022 Financial Report***

Donald will make copies of the financial report and email it as copies were not distributed in advance.

Jim Plunkett reported the major sources of income for the month of August were from Give65 ($18,602), FCOA ($8,911), Columbus City Chamber grant for Human Services ($3,750), the Birthday Party ($7,600), and a grant from Whole Foods that Baaba Ampah wrote ($2,800). The portfolio did go down another $1,000, but Jim is expecting it to go back up in the market.

Donald clarified that the Whole Foods grant should be a discretionary fund for Nikki or himself to offset the costs for luncheons for those who might not have the resources to pay for them. Donald Wiggins asked if he needed approval to use the funds. Bill Curlis replied, saying that if it is written in the budget for that purpose, then no. Jim Plunkett clarified that the grant is under member services in the budget.

Jim added that there were excess funds in the checking account, so he moved $20,000 to the money marketing account.

The board decided to wait to approve the financial report until they see it as there were not copies available at the time of the meeting.

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

[Bill Curlis, Brenda Gishel]

Motion approved.

**Committee Reports:**

***Marketing Committee Report***

Scott Blake reported having a very successful Give65, grossing over $18,600.

Donald clarified that we took in $20,539.36, but when you take out the expenses, the check was for $18,602. Bill Curlis said that it all goes in the general fund for general purposes.

Scott Blake said that everyone should have received the finalized birthday invitation. Donald secured 10 of 10 of the $1,000 candle sponsors. The committee discussed how to honor the candle donors at the birthday event.

Bill Curlis asked what was promised to the candle donors. Donald said that there was nothing promised, and he was strategic on who he asked to be candle sponsors. He asked people who have been invested from the very beginning. Carolyn Workman suggested using pictures of the event as a part of the thank you for the candle sponsors.

Donald reported that the candle donors are Kim and Jim Cowie, Barb and Ed Elberfeld, Jill D’Antignac and Jim Plunkett (purchased 5 candles), Jim Nichols and Tammi Hall, Cindy and Stuart Lazarus, and Janet and Sid Druen. He only had one person that he approached that said no. But that person is a very generous person to the organization, it just wasn’t the right thing for them. We’re very lucky because it’s $10,000 we weren’t expecting. The Give65 campaign was successful. Donald wasn’t sure if it was going to be, so he came up with the idea for the candles and ending up having a great Give65. We’re going to end the year with Giving Tuesday in conjunction for the annual appeal.

On the back of the invitation, it says that we are graciously accepting donations of $100 ($10 for every year we have grown). Donald explained that is not a prerequisite for someone to attend the party. It’s just putting the thought out there in their mind. Village Connections staff had a conversation with every member saying that they do not have to donate. This is an opportunity for them to celebrate with those who support the organization. Brenda suggested sending the invitation to the presidents of Schumacher place, Merion Village, downtown, and brewery district to stay relevant.

Scott said that the marketing committee is also working on updating the brochure. Michael worked on preliminary designs and the NexGen group that Scott was a part of made some suggestions on it. Michael is integrating them. Hopefully he will have a draft to share sometime soon. Scott also said that the committee is having some preliminary discussions on the impact report and aligning it with the brochure and carrying some themes from the previous one to the current one.

***Membership Committee Report***

Ed Elberfeld reported that Village Connections has 188 members, 60 are regular service-receiving members and 128 social members. There is a 2:1 ratio of social members to regular members. Regular membership has been growing and is on target for the year. He has been asking Nikki if there are enough volunteers to cover our service receiving members and her response is always, “we could always use more.”

Social membership ebbs and flows. People give to our giving opportunities and the membership increases. People are informed of their renewals by email and if they don’t respond, they receive a letter of their renewal date. They may nor may not renew. Ed is happy with the progress. He is encouraged by recent activity of the marketing committee. He says that people see something out of the blue with social media, in a paper, in Neighbors for Neighbors. That touch can send out waves.

***Services Committee Report***

Barb Elberfeld stated that continue to try to schedule social events on Wednesdays. She continued that the committee also discussed updating our membership directory as it is getting out of date. The committee discussed if they wanted to put just the people receiving services or if they wanted to include social members. It was decided that it will be best if the directory only has the service-receiving members. Barb clarified that the directory has the member’s picture, address, and phone number. It’s nice for volunteers to see who they are working with.

Donald clarified, saying that all board members should have the member directory. The only ones who aren’t in it are all those who have joined since it was created. Some members who are in it have since passed.

Barb continued, saying that over the summer Village Connections got a couple of good new volunteers. One of them saw us online and wanted to get involved. Donald said that he has a new volunteer that Barb doesn’t know about—Cindy Lazarus. She asked how to be involved and not just donating money.

***Hospitality Committee Report***

Betty Garrett explained that hospitality is the committee that plans supper club. They plan the menu, decide who is cooking, and who is delivering. Marlene tells Betty that she is willing to cook. Carolyn also said that she is willing to help cook.

Fran Schneider asked how many people receive meals. Donald replied that 18 or 19 members receive a supper club meal every month.

Donald clarified that whoever cooks buys the food as well. It is an in-kind donation to the organization. If we didn’t have the generosity of these folks, it would be impossible for supper club to happen. Donald figures Village Connections is receiving about $150 a month of in-kind donations for supper club. He tracked gift in-kind this year and states that we have almost $2,800 in in-kind donations this year. Donald explained that in-kind donations is money the organization would have had to spend otherwise. Donald said that he secured someone to pay for the containers.

Betty said that the people who get them really appreciate them. Donald said that we know they get two healthy meals a month.

Bill asked if people track nutritional values for people. Betty said no, but if people don’t like something or are allergic, the cooks can accommodate it. Donald said that Kim does a good job on picking healthy meals.

***Nominating committee***

Bill Curlis reported that we might have a new board member. It is still yet to be decided.

***Events Committee Report***

Donald said that we don’t have a person for events, but our next event is the birthday party. He is meeting with Jill D’Antignac tomorrow to discuss décor for the birthday party.

***President’s Report***

The President is not in attendance.

***Executive Director’s Report***

Donald said that the board had already discussed everything he wanted to discuss.

***Service & Communications Manager Report***

Nikki said that she sent out another reminder for the volunteer survey. The survey helped her get to know the volunteers more and have updated information on availability and the services they want to do. She sent it to about 60 people and had 29 people respond, which is a good response rate. She had also been tracking the number of times she has been requesting individual volunteers for services, the number of times they have agreed to services, said no, and haven’t responded. It shows that we have several volunteers who are willing to work a few days a week. The office doesn’t want to run the risk of burning them out.

The office is working with Leadership Columbus to recruit new volunteers. They gave us contacts from different service-based organizations that we will be following up on.

Donald clarified that we will be reaching out to different Kiwanis clubs and Rotary Clubs, both of which are service-driven organizations. He is hoping to get a few people from those organizations who might not know we exist. Donald said that our new campaign is, “can you give us two hours per month”. Village Connections only needs 5 or 6 more volunteers to get us in a good spot. Nikki is finding out that people do not answer service request emails. Another 5 volunteers would make her job so much easier. Donald has 4 appointments at these organizations. Brenda added that they may become members. She also said that Southeast Lions could be a good organization as they are within our area.

Bill asked if all the all the new volunteers will be vetted. Donald said that all volunteers will go through the background check.

Nikki continued, saying that Donald and she were invited to Leadership Columbus’s Celebration of Changemakers on September 9th. It is their way of honor people who uplift our community. There will be several nonprofits in attendance. It’s another opportunity to get the word out about Village Connections.

Nikki continued with stats The board asked for on the services at the last board meeting. Year To Date VC has completed 887 hours of service. In July we had 116 hours. So far in August, we had 117 hours. It comes out to about 30 hours per week that we are providing services for our members—almost 1 hour for every hour the office is open. Bill asked if she tracks board hours.

Nikki replied, saying that she did not consider board hours or committee meeting hours, but she will add it to the sheet.

Barb asked if she should call in and report that a service took longer than expected. Donald replied, saying that she should absolutely let us know.

Donald explained that no service will be counted for under an hour because volunteers must drive to pick them up, drive to the location, drive back to pick them up, drop them off, and return home. Nikki realized that we are shorting ourselves the hours. The system doesn’t track yard cleanup, Village Valuables, and other services VC provides.

***VISTA Report***

Baaba reported that we took a break on coffee meetups due to low attendance. They will restart in October. Katie Harper is coming from the Ohio Attorney General’s Office to present on scam prevention. She invited Ville on the Hill, Village in the Ville, Village Central, and At Home by High to join us for the event. We want our members to interact with members from other villages. Baaba is also working with Columbus State on having students come from the IT department to help members deal with their technology for November’s coffee meetup.

***Old Business —***

***none***

***New Business*** —

**None**

**Adjournment**

**MOTION:** To adjourn.

[ Carolyn Workman, Bill Curlis]

The business of the August 2022 meeting of Village Connections having been concluded the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Curlis, Secretary

Attest: Kim Cowie, President

Nikki McFadden, Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting:** October 20, 2022