**Village Connections**

**Board Meeting**

**6/16**

**6:00 PM**

**German Village Society Meeting Haus Scheurer Room**

President Kim Cowie called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Members Present: Kim Cowie, Ken Hunger, Betty Garrett, Brenda Gischel, Fran Schneider, Scott Blake, Ed Elberfeld, Bill Curlis, Edna Menke, Jim Plunkette**

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

**Welcome and call to order**

**Election of Board Members to terms ending June 30, 2025**

**Candidates for election to the Board of Trustees were nominated at the April 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees.**

**MOTION:** To close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the election of Brenda Gischel, Jim Plunkett, Fran Schneider, and Pam Albrecht to the Board of Trustees for a full three-year term ending June 30, 2025

[Ed Elberfeld, Kim Cowie]

Motion approved.

**Motion:** to elect the following candidates as officers of the Board of Trustees for their respective offices and terms:

Kim Cowie, President – term ending June 30, 2022.

Betty Garret, Vice President – term ending June 30, 2022.

Jim Plunkett, Treasurer – term ending June 30, 2022.

Bill Curlis, Secretary – term ending June 30, 2022.

[Brenda Gischel, Scott Blake]

Motion approved

***Approval of April 2022 Minutes***

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

**MOTION:** Approve the April 2022 Board of Trustees meeting minutes.

[ Bill Curlis, Fran Schnieider ]

Motion approved.

***April 2022 Financial Report***

Jim Plunkett reported that the balance in the checking account is $32,745, and the total cash is $81,000. He continued that we are going into recession, so our investment account is low; however, it is a long-term investment, so we should come back up.

Bill Curlis asked if there were any payment delays.

Donald Wiggins answered we were all caught up with our payment after several phone calls. We are receiving our COAAA money monthly instead of waiting until the end of the year to pay us.

Jim continued that Debbie Nymeth donated 1,500 dollars to help with the cost of Supper Club. This donation is placed in a restricted fund for Supper Club, and it is not an In-Kind donation.

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

[ Ed Elberfeld, Brenda Gischel]

Motion approved.

**Committee Reports:**

***Marketing Committee Report***

Donald reported that there was not a marketing meeting last month; however, there will be a meeting in the future to report the next Board Meeting.

***Membership Committee Report***

Ed Elberfeld reported that the number of social members is holding steady. Last year, we had a lot of social members because of Give 65. There is a correlation between giving and social memberships. The focus has been on service-receiving members, which we have met the target, but with the lack of volunteers, we need to be careful to fit our membership needs.

Ed continued to thank Service and Communications Coordinator Nikki and Americorps Vista Partner Baaba for maintaining robust social media. We just received a younger member who saw us on social media, thanks to efforts made in social media marketing.

Kim added that this is a younger member, so social media is a good marketing strategy to increase our demographic to younger members.

***Services Committee Report***

Barb Elberfeld stated that we had changed the calendar to *Wednesdays with Us* in July, so members are familiar with events. She continued that she got a new volunteer from OSU who will be a great addition to VC.

Donald added that we are going back and moving things to Wednesdays. Last year, VC staff started #Wednesdayswithus when they started the porch party. So VC staff thought it would be a great idea to bring it back.

Barb thanked VC staff for calling members during the recent hot season. VC staff also stopped the house members they couldn’t reach through telephone.

***Events Committee Report***

Ken Hunger explained that we had scheduled an arts and craft day; however, it got canceled because of the *Home and Garden Tour*.

Donald announced that this was Ken’s last meeting and he would not be returning to the board. However, he would like to be involved with the organization, so he will still be on the Events Committee.

***President’s Report***

Kim thanked Fran for taking up the Walking Club in Moeller Park and has been doing outreach to Merion Village. During Walking Club, people in Merion Village have walked with members and learned more about Village Connections.

***Executive Director’s Report***

***Donald*** reported that his main focus is Give 65, which takes place from July 12th through the 16th. There will be 400 postcards that will be mailed on Monday. We asked for a minimum donation was $100 because the average minimum donation last year was $100 -$125.

After that, our focus will be on the birthday party held in September, and we asked for a minimum payment of $100.

***Service & Communications Manager Report***

Nikki Mcfadden stated that she had been employed for a month and a half. During her time here, she has been learning about Club Express and the newsletter, doing social media, and learning more about the organization. She has also been interacting with members and building relationships with them.

She continued that she had a meeting with Leadership Columbus. In the meeting, a person from the Leadership Columbus group wanted to know our processes. VC staff is still dealing with the same problems they had in the past with a lack of communication from the Leadership Columbus group.

Nikki continued that she created a survey trying to learn more about volunteers. She wanted to know the current depth of our volunteers. This will help her volunteer to utilize in specific service areas. She will collect data in the next couple of months.

***VISTA Report***

Baaba Ampah announced that she has been working with Nikki to transfer her needed skills. She has taught Nikki Club Express, our newsletter, Mailchimp, and more. She continued that Village Connections received the Whole Foods Grant of $2,750 to offset the costs of members who cannot afford our social outings.

***Old Business —***

Betty continued that she has the most excellent and most helpful volunteer who helps her with her yard during snow, Fall, and Spring Yard Clean-Up.

Donald added that our newest member is excited about our services. She has lived in a village for four years and has been isolated. She is excited to join our organization.

Fran Schneider expressed that she would love to get the total amount of services we do each month.

***New Business*** —

Kim Cowie announced she would not be here for the next meeting, and Vice President Betty Garrett will lead the August meeting.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION:** To adjourn.

[Jim Plunkett, Scott Blake ]

The business of the June 16th meeting of Village Connections, having been concluded the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Curlis, Secretary

Attest: Kim Cowie, President

Baaba Ampah, Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting:** August 25, 2022