**Village Connections**

**Board Meeting**

**Thursday, April 28, 2022**

**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, Edna Menke, Ed Elberfeld, [Fran Schneider](mailto:FSCHNEIDER@sbcglobal.net), Betty Garrett, Jim Plunkett, Pam Albrecht, William Curlis, and Carolyn Workman

**Attending:** Donald Wiggins, Executive Director, Baaba Ampah, AmeriCorps VISTA Partner, Barb Elberfeld, and Jim Cowie

***Approval of February 2022 Minutes***

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

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

[Ed Elberfeld, Betty Garrett]

Motion approved.

***April 2022 Financial Report***

Treasurer Jim Plunkett presented the treasurer’s report for April, 2022. Jim noted that our market value is down $6,000 but it will come back. It is a short-term problem and not long-term.

COAA has donated 10,000 dollars.

Executive Director Donald Wiggins noted that the organization has saved money due to our lack of a Service and Communications Manager, not filling the position.

Jim expanded that we have a month’s worth of pay saved.

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

[ Ed Elberfled, Edna Menke]

Motion approved.

**Committee Reports:**

***Marketing Committee Report***

Marketing Chair Edna Menke and Executive Director Donald Wiggins reported that the Marketing Committee is planning a 10-year birthday party for Village Connections. The goal of this fundraising event is $10,000 and Donald has already secured 2 people to donate $1,000 each to kick off the event.

William Curlis inquired what the purpose and need for the Birthday Party were.

Donald responded that $10,000 would be put in our scholarship fund so we would never have to say “no” to anyone who wants to join our membership. Currently, The Columbus Foundation, “Better Together” is funding our scholarship; however, we never know long that funding will last. These funds are to secure membership for someone who deserves to be a member but cannot afford the membership.

Ed Elberfeld agreed that this is a good idea for people who cannot afford our dues but need our help.

***Membership Committee Report***

Membership Chair Ed Elberfeld reported that membership and marketing are working together. Our social membership remains the same and our regular memberships are increasing. That is an issue because as we increase our regular membership, our volunteers need to increase as well.

Bill added that we need to include volunteers in our tenth-anniversary celebration as a way to increase volunteers.

Pam Albrecht noted that people are getting busier and busier as life goes on. For example, she has a lot of grandkids and needs to babysit, so she cannot be an active volunteer as much as she wants to.

Ed noted that NXGEN is supposed to identify ways to increase the efficiency and increase the number of volunteers that we add, and this is also tied to membership. He continued that we do not want to make our volunteers feel guilty about not being able to volunteer when needed. We also do not want them to feel they are not needed; we need to more articulate that volunteering with us should be fun and that they should not feel restricted while volunteering with us

***Services Committee Report***

Barb explained that we are continuing to have our lunches and brunches. Starting in June, we are introducing Porch Parties again and we should be able to have more people since we are not constricted with Covid.

At the last meeting, we spent a lot of time talking about increasing volunteers and the same things kept coming up. In the books we have about 100 volunteers; however, only about 20% are core volunteers that do things regularly. It is mainly because a lot of people work, and we do not have as many volunteer opportunities on the weekend. Although recently more people volunteered to take a member to a service on a weekend.

Barb expressed that she is disappointed that she has not been able to meet much with NXGEN. Previously, we sent them a wish list of what our ideal volunteer should look like.

Donald added that today, staff members did meet with NXGEN, and they came back with four priorities: recruitment, marketing, communication, and orientation/retention.

On the topic of volunteers, Carolyn Workman added that instead of focusing on new volunteers we should focus on inactive volunteers and reach out to them to see if there is anything we can do to make them active again.

Donald noted that at the beginning of his employment at Village Connections, he did reach out to all volunteers asking to meet them and send any feedback they wanted to share; however, only four volunteers replied.

Kim added that we need to think about ways to nurture volunteers and their needs. We need to figure out which volunteers are super active and come up with a volunteer sub-committee under services to analyze our volunteers and brainstorm ideas.

On the topic of volunteers, Bill Curlis asked what our regular engagement is with our volunteer list?

Kim answered that volunteers receive our newsletters. Before covid, we hosted a once-a-year volunteer thank-you party. Last year, we had a small pizza party at Brenda’s. This year, we will be having a larger event at Jim and Jill’s house. We also invited very engaged volunteers to be committee members to take their volunteerism to the next level.

Donald also answered that the new Service and Communications coordinator, Nikki McFadden, has experience at Catholic Social Services working with volunteers. She will bring a fresh set of eyes to what we need to do, to further engage our volunteers.

Ed added that we need to find a way to retain volunteers where they do feel purposeful enough but also not overburdened.

***Nominating Committee Report***

Bill Curlis announced that we have an Annual Board Meeting in June every year. The Nominating Committee makes recommendations for appointments to the board for expired terms. It is also the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to place nominations for officers for next year. Voting will take place in June.

He placed the names of the following nomination as trustees for reelection: Brenda Gischel, Jim Plunkett, Fran Schneider & Pam Albrecht for re-election for terms ending on Jun 30, 2022.

He also placed nominations for their respective offices: Kim Cowie as president. Betty Garrett as vice president. Jim Plunkett said as treasurer and Bill Curlis as secretary.

He asked that the Trustees help to recruit. To nominate someone, contact Donald Wiggins, Kim Cowie, Betty Garrett, or Bill Curlis.

***Events Committee Report***

Donald reported that Village Connections’ birthday party is scheduled for Sep 24, 2022. Also, Wine your Art Out is canceled until further notice.

***President’s Report***

Kim announced that everyone is invited to the Cinco de Mayo Party on May 5th at her home. This event is open to all Board Members and active volunteers who are part of a committee. There will be a taco bar, chips and dip, margaritas, and more drinks! She also announced that there is a replacement for our Services and Communications Coordinator who will be starting on Monday.

***Executive Director’s Report***

Donald thanked Ed and Barb for offering to host Village Valuables at their house. People can drop things off on the 16th through the 20th. Large items will be picked up by Donald and Ed on the 20th.

He also announced that there is a memorial service this Saturday for Brookie Martin, a former member of Village Connections, at 10:30 am at Central College Presbyterian Church. Her family selected Village Connections as a memorial option gift. We have received $1,050 of memorial gifts from her family and friends. He continued that anyone who made a memorial gift received a letter and her family and was copied

***Vista Report***

Baaba Ampah reported that she has been managing the roles of the Service and Communication coordinator, which include website management, managing social media, creating the monthly newsletters, coordinating services, and taking minutes for all committee meetings. She continues that she will be transferring these responsibilities/skills to Nikki, the new Service, and Communications Coordinator.

She has also applied for one grant from Gordon Flesch Charitable Foundation.

***Old Business —***

Jim Plunkett announced that according to the IRS and Nancy Male, Franklin County Coordinator for grants, we have to keep records for six years. Records more than six years old will be destroyed.

***New Business*** — none

**Adjournment**

**MOTION:** To adjourn.

[ Betty Garrett, Jim Plunkett]

The business of the 4/28 meeting of Village Connections having concluded the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

William Curlis, Secretary

Attest: Kim Cowie, President

Baaba Ampah, Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting:** June 16th, 2022, at 6:00 P.M.