

**Village Connections
Board Meeting
Thursday, December 2nd, 2021
6 PM
German Village Society Meeting Haus Scheurer Room**

President Kim Cowie called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Members Present: Kim Cowie, Jim Plunkett, Carolyn Workman, Betty Garrett, Brenda Gischel, Ed Elberfeld, Bill Curlis, Pam Albrecht, & Ken Hunger.

Attending: Donald Wiggins, Executive Director, Jillian Davis, Service & Communications Manager, Baaba Ampah, AmeriCorps VISTA Partner, Jim Cowie, & Barb Elberfeld.

Approval of November 2021 Minutes

Kim Cowie, President, presented the minutes of November 2021.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the November Board of Trustees meeting.
[Bill Curlis, Brenda Gischel]
Motion approved.

December 2021 Financial Report

Jim Plunkett reported everyone received an electronic copy of the financial report and budget for next year.

Jim noted that we have over \$140,000 in cash and stock. This is about what we'll be spending each year. Our annual appeal fundraiser is headed towards a record high.

It was decided to table the discussion of continuing to build up our reserve account until February.

MOTION: To approve the financial report for December 2021 for audit.
[Bill Curlis, Brenda Gischel]
Motion approved.

2022 Budget

Jim reported no major changes in our budget from 2021, aside from the Executive Committee's decision to spend \$400 out of our tech budget to purchase a new cloud-based information system. This system should allow for more streamlined financial reports in the future, with categories broken down further. We will be seeking feedback from board members and encourage interested parties to join the Finance Committee.

Jim also noted that we budgeted for the annual Village to Village network conference in 2022, but it hasn't yet been announced whether it will be in-person or online. He also noted that we only budgeted for one grant as qualifications and opportunities continue to shift due to COVID-19, but we may be eligible for additional funding.

MOTION: To approve the 2022 Budget.

[Ken Hunger, Bill Curlis]

Motion approved.

Committee Reports:

In the interest of time, the minutes have been shared from the Committees that have met since our last Board Meeting.

Marketing Committee Report

Executive director Donald Wiggins reported on behalf of Edna Menke. He reported that the Marketing Committee is on track with the Impact Report with the next meeting being on the 16th. By the end of December the Impact Report should be ready to go to print.

Membership Committee Report

Ed Elberfeld reported that we are carefully pursuing adding new regular members while assessing their need for Services. The Membership Committee is also keeping an eye on giving, which has a major impact on social membership. For the year of 2021, Ed reported we had 14 new service members join. He noted that a number of the new service members don't need a lot of services, but are paying it forward/using as insurance policy. Betty Garrett notes how this will be an excellent selling point.

Services Committee Report

Barb Elberfeld reported Supper Club is continuing with increased popularity.

Events Committee Report

Ken Hunger has been out of town. The Event Committee will be meeting soon and planning some more fun activities/events.

President's Report

Kim Cowie reported that she has submitted the COAAA grant to the county and Jim Plunkett helped with budget. There's been a 2.1% cost of living increase in funding. This is a renewal grant and we can expect to hear back around the first of the year. Kim announced 2022 as the "Year of the Volunteer." She reported a .95 volunteer per 1 member ratio right now. In 2022 we need to put effort into building a plan to increase volunteers.

Executive Director's Report

Donald Wiggins reported that we have picked up 13% over last year's numbers and are 91% of the way to what we made last year during our annual appeal. He noted the positive response to the decision to ask for \$65 donations this year, with only two donations under this amount. 90% of members have given a gift this year.

Service & Communications Manager Report

Jillian Davis reported that events and activities are in full swing and have been well attended. Our annual Fall Yard Clean-Up was postponed this year due to weather and volunteer scheduling conflicts, but will be completed next weekend. We had support from student volunteers from OSU in partnership with Age Friendly. Jillian reported that volunteers will be delivering holiday bags to members on December 17th and holiday cards will be sent out the following Monday as another touch point. The Services Committee will be signing holiday cards to be sent to volunteers. Donald and Betty will be delivering holiday meals to members on Christmas Eve day.

VISTA Report

Baaba Ampah reported on a Franklin Park Conservatory field trip on December 14th with a group discount of \$12/person. 17 people have signed up to attend so far. Coffee Meet-ups for 2022 have speakers for January, March, and April, featuring a range of professionals. Baaba reported that she is working with Jillian to update our records and work on policies and procedures.

Old Business — None

New Business — Effective December 22nd, Brenda Gischel will be moving out of the area. She asks how we can continue to have representation from Schumacher Place on the board. This is currently up to the Nominating Committee, who has been challenged to look at Committees to see if there are residents of Schumacher interested in joining the board. We are not currently looking outside of very active volunteers and committee members because we want to continue having a strong, working board. If there's not currently someone from Schumacher like this, we could bring a volunteer onto a Committee.

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn.

[Brenda Gishel, Ken Hunger]

The business of the December 2, 2021 meeting of Village Connections having been concluded the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William Curlis, Secretary

Attest: Kim Cowie, President
Jillian Davis, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 24th at 6 PM.