

Village Connections
Board Meeting
Thursday December 5, 2019
6 pm
German Village Meeting Haus

Welcome and Updates

The meeting of the Village Connections Board was called to order by President Kim Cowie at 6:00 pm at German Village Meeting Haus, 588 South Third Street, pursuant to a call of the meeting.

Members present: Kim Cowie, Bill Curlis, Ed Elberfeld, Betty Garrett, Brenda Gischel, Jim Plunkett, and Fran Schneider. A quorum was present.

Attending: Donald Wiggins, Executive Director, Alex Blankenship staff member through the American Corps Vista Program, and Ken Hunger who is a prospective Board Member.

Approval of Minutes of October 24, 2019

The President, Kim, presented the minutes of the October 24, 2019 Board Meeting. Jim indicated that the time of the Holiday Party is incorrect as should be 6pm-8pm and not 6pm-9pm.

MOTION: Approve the October 24 Board Meeting Minutes with the amendment for the time of the Holiday Party.

Motion approved

[Bill Curlis, Brenda Gischel]

Financial Report for December 5, 2019

Jim met with the Executive Committee prior to the meeting as was going to be out of town. In terms of the financial report at the present time have \$6,833.81 dollars in hand and \$8,080.00 in gift in kind donations for a total of \$14,913.81. In addition have \$6,000 pledged. Also have \$20,000.00 in our reserve right now and will have another \$10,000 by the end of the year for a total of \$30,000.

MOTION: Approve the December financial statement.

Motion approved

[Bill Curlis, Betty Garrett]

In terms of our budget for 2020-2021 one of the members asked “Why are we budgeted for an audit if we don’t do one every year?” The response would rather be safe than sorry. Plus passing audits makes us look better when trying to get grants.

There were no objections to the budget.

MOTION: Approve the 2020-2021 budget.

Motion approved

[Bill Curlis, Betty Garrett]

Committee Reports:

Marketing Committee Report

Going into next year, the Marketing Committee is going to focus on improving some of our materials that include

- Redesigning our brochure.
- Doing social media posts that will have consistent patterns and design with varying messages to our followers, such as volunteering, donating, etc.
- Everything posted has to go directly through the marketing committee and Pam, to help our messages and designs stay consistent.
- Michael Warner needs our logo in vector format that Ed or Alex should have a copy that is needed for some of our marketing materials.

One of the board members raised the question if we should be on “NextDoor”? There was consensus that did not want to be involved; however individuals could repost things on our behalf.

Membership Committee Report

At present time have 194 members. The current Annual Appeal has resulted in increasing social members with our label to specifically asking a \$125.00 donation. This was Donald’s idea.

December is an important month for Membership as we have 70 renewals for the month. Upon entry to the Holiday Party will remind people about membership renewal. The focus of the Holiday Party is to show our members our appreciation. We will have a thank you tree there to show the members our appreciation.

Events

Our first member party of the New Year is on February 29th from 6pm - 10pm. It will be a Tiki Party, with a co-theme of frogs for “leap” year. It is a member’s only event. Tiki Botanicals will be putting together a door prize made up of tropical themed and scented items from their shop.

Services Committee Report

The committee members set the dates for social events for the next two months. The next social hour will be at Law Bird. They agreed to sit a section of the seating area out for us and work with us.

From now on will be entering service events into the calendar during the services meeting so our website will be up to date with our events immediately.

The transportation sub-committee is waiting to find out if receiving a service grant. If awarded a grant, we would use funds towards a part time person who could help with transportation that would change the scope of the transportation committee.

Directors Report

Donald reported that had a big push to grow membership this month. Need only 6 more people to hit our goal of 200 members.

The “I’m asking you to consider \$__” has worked well during the campaign.

- We had someone who donated again who hadn’t donated since 2015.
- Took top 30% and asked them to donate that amount again.

Donald started a business partnership member which is \$125.00. Already have three businesses so far, Hausfrau Haven, Katzingers, and Helen Winnemores. Also have a commitment for \$2,000.00. We will begin listing our business partners on the website in a specific section. We have potential partnerships at Lindey’s and the Hey Hey as well. The Columbus Jewish Foundation. Is going to set us a check.

Fifteen individuals attended our Thanksgiving Lunch at Valter’s, and 20 individuals attended our Holiday Lunch at Lindey’s. A majority at this lunch were full members. The first time had a Holiday lunch at Lindey’s only four members attended.

There is the potential of \$25,000.00 community partnership grant which should know the results sometime this month.

Submitted a renewal grant through Senior Options for \$34,000.00.

Update on VISTA—Alex Blankenship

Tasked with helping create the monthly budget for 2020

- This is beneficial as Alex will get a background in budgets, and it will help us in the future as the organization gets bigger.
- Collecting expenses from 2019 and categorizing them to get an idea of how much we spend, where we spend it, and when we spend it.

Surveys of service members have continued

- Twelve surveys have been completed and the satisfaction rate is 88%.
- Emails have been sent to all members, so now plan to follow up with calls asking if they would like to participate.

Started Volunteer/Member of the month in the newsletter, which we will continue into 2020.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

The business of the Village Connections having been concluded the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

MOTION: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made.

Motion was approved.

[Jim Plunkett, Ken Hunger]

Respectfully submitted:

Edna M. Menke

Attest:

Kimberly Cowie