

Village Connections
Board Meeting
Thursday May 25, 2017
6:00 PM
German Village Meeting Haus

The meeting of the Village Connections Board was called to order by Vice President Kimberly 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, Betty Garrett, Dwight Garner, Brenda Gischel, Edna Menke, James Nichols, Frances Schneider, Crystal Seamon, and Carolyn Workman. A quorum was present.

The Executive Director, Kristen Schweitzer is on maternity leave. She had a baby boy on Wednesday, May 24, 2017.

Approval of Minutes of April 27, 2017 meeting

The Vice President, Kim Cowie, presented the minutes of the April 27, 2017 Board meeting.

MOTION: Approve the Minutes of the meeting April 27, 2017.

Motion approved.

[Workman, Schneider]

Nominating Committee Report

Betty Garrett presented the report of the nominating committee. Four individuals are placed in nomination for the office of Director of Village Connections for terms ending June 30, 2020. These individuals are Kim Cowie, William Curlis, Ed Elberfeld, and Edna Menke. Crystal Seamon is not running for another term.

The individuals who are placed in nomination for their respective offices are Kim Cowie, President; Betty Garrett, Vice President; Edna Menke, Secretary, and Jim Plunkett, Treasurer. Each of these nominations are for a term ending June 30, 2018.

Voting will take place at the June 29, 2017 annual meeting.

Marketing and Membership Committee Report

Edna Menke reported that the Marketing and Membership Committee met on May 5, 2017. The committee discussed how to match the committee to the Outcomes and Milestones from the Village Connections retreat in regard to sustainable financial stability. It was determined that Village Connections needed to raise at least \$30, 000 from membership dues. At the present time, we have 48 members and would need to increase membership by 16 members in the first year. Some of the strategies proposed are having a membership drive in September, and community building through contact with civic associations and churches. In addition, we want to have some focus groups in the areas served by Village Connections.

There was some discussion about the committee being divided into two committees: one for marketing and the other for membership. Also Village Connections needs to work on rebranding and obtain assistance from someone who has this expertise.

At the Board meeting, there was some discussion about the September membership drive. Village Connections has received \$ 10, 000 in discretionary funds from Columbus City Council for a membership drive thanks to Kristen's application. These monies are to help with marketing and membership committee activities. Some of these monies will be used for the September membership drive. Some residents in Merion Village and Schumacher Place will be targeted to attend a membership event.

Services Committee and Office Activities and Members Support Report

Kim Cowie reported that office activities have been going well with Kristen on maternity leave. Kim has been able to handle the phone calls as there have been only three this week. Volunteers have signed up to cover transportation. At the present time, the only need to is fill one transportation request that will be covered by a board member. Kim has volunteers, Heidi Drake and Pam Albrecht, who can assist with the telephone, if necessary, as they have previous experience when help

was needed prior to hiring Kristen. If necessary, Carolyn Workman is the backup for Kim.

Two of the social events scheduled for May were well attended. Twelve individuals attended the Age Friendly Screening of Casablanca at Gateway Film Center on May 16 and seven individuals for the Columbus Art Museum on May 24.

Fundraising Committee Report and Derby Day Event

Kim Cowie presented the report of the fundraising committee. The committee is pleased with the attendance and the venue for Derby Day at the Audubon Center. The committee is recommending that Derby Day 2018 be at the Audubon Center. There was a great deal of discussion regarding the time and effort for the event and only making \$5,300. One of the concerns is the amount of food that was available for the event and being required to have the caterer that Audubon Center authorizes. Also there was concern about the event appealing to younger individuals and the quality of the sound system for the Derby race itself.

The group spent time considering alternative locations for Derby Day. The outcome was no specific alternative. For Derby Day 2018 (May 5) a decision needs to be made very soon as we would need to sign a contract with the Audubon Center. Those present suggested that the executive committee make the decision regarding signing a contract and giving a down payment to the Audubon Center.

Kim reported that at the German Village valuables sale on May 20, Village Connections made \$852 at their tables held at her home.

Meg has prepared and submitted the grant proposal to the Davis Foundation to support our recruitment, training, and retention of volunteers. James Nichols told her if the proposal is approved, this will be our final grant from the Foundation.

President's Report

Kim presented Meg's report as she is out of town. The first item is that the Executive Committee conducted its annual review of our Executive Director, Kristen Schweitzer, who was hired April 2016. Based on the review, Kristen has done an

excellent job in carrying out her responsibilities. A copy of the evaluation report was emailed to the Board members. The recommendation of the Executive Committee is to offer Kristen a raise of \$2,000 a year beginning in June 2017.

MOTION: A motion to increase Kristen's salary by \$2,000 was made.

Motion was approved.

[Nichols, Garner]

Old Business

Meg requested Kim to appoint Edna, Jim Nichols, and herself to a review committee of the Board's policies and procedures.

New Business

Kim asked the Board members if there is any maternity leave policy regarding reimbursed. There was a lot of discussion; however, unsure if have a policy. There was consensus for the Executive Committee to consider this when Meg and Jim Plunkett return.

Adjournment

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

MOTION: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made.

Motion was approved.

[Gischel, Garner]

Respectfully submitted:

Edna M. Menke

Attest:

Margaret Teaford