

Minutes/Notes

May 2, 2023

Blacksburg Recreation Center

Attendees: Don Creamer, Terry Wildman, Leslie Pendleton, Jerry Niles, Fred Piercy, John Burton, Nola Elliot, Beth Grabau, Wilma Dotson, Judith Jones, Ben Crawford, Pat Ballard.

President Leslie Pendleton called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. (She shared that she did not think the meeting would go for two hours).

The minutes: The minutes from the April 2023 board meeting were considered and approved.

Old Business:

Finances. Pat Ballard announced that we had over \$11,000 in the bank, including \$437 in food donations collected during the 2023 Chapter Programs. Memberships have slowed. She has submitted our forms to the State Corporation Commission. We have a large insurance bill due in soon. Pat's report elicited another discussion about charitable giving. It was decided that Pat should put "Leading Lights" back in the budget as an annual line item. Charitable giving will be part of next fall's budget and the amount allocated and the amounts requested will go to Judith Jones' committee for recommendations.

FACNRV "Together We Rise" Project Update. Leslie Pendleton will pick up ladders next Saturday to be used in the temporary sculpture at Jackson Park in Pulaski. All ladders are to be delivered to Jackson Park by 6:00 PM Saturday and will be marked as to ownership. Leslie, Wilma, and Leslie's husband will volunteer to tag ladders and staff an AARP Blacksburg booth at the ribbon-cutting event.

Picnic Update. Terry Wildman gave an update for the annual picnic to be held June 22nd from 5:00 – 7:00 PM at the Wildman/Magliaro estate. Terry's Committee has ordered tents, tables, and chairs and is narrowing in on the source for the barbeque, etc. – likely Top/Bottom of the Stairs. He will put together the details in a release through MailChimp including the cost per person (\$10.00) and directions. Don Creamer will set up an online payment process separate from dues.

Oktoberfest Update. Terry has requested a room for 50 people at the Eastern Divide on September 27th from 4:00 – 7:00 PM. We will order off the menu rather than a fixed meal or buffet.

Adopt-a-Highway Update. Pat Hipkins (not present) sent a report to be given to Judith's Committee. This discussion was tabled until June.

New Business:

4th of July Parade. It was decided that we will participate in the Parade. Nola and Leslie appeared to take responsibility for how and what. More information will be provided in June.

Transportation Options to Warm Hearth. There was a discussion about providing rides for residents of Warm Hearth to get to and from Chapter Programs and perhaps Board meetings. It was generally agreed that Blacksburg Transit and Warm Hearth have very good options for such travel. Leslie and Don will speak to Ellen Rorrer and/or Kenny Harrah at Warm Hearth Village.

Committee Reports:

Membership. Wilma Dotson gave a brief report of her contacts, especially the Blacksburg Newcomers Club. They are interested in having a speaker from our Chapter.

Leadership Development. Don reported on a meeting between himself and Jerry Niles which resulted in a proposed luncheon (costs to be paid by the Chapter) and an accompanying draft for possible dissemination (see attached) to the membership. The rationale is this: our membership is healthy, and our Chapter Programs are well attended and received, but we need to recruit and develop leadership for the future. Few of us are getting younger and there needs to be a generation of new leadership in the pipeline. Leslie took an informal survey during the Board meeting. No Board member expressed interest in service as Vice President in 2024. The proposed luncheon could help recruit new leadership. A somewhat lively discussion followed about how the letter to the membership would read (focused sharply on leadership recruiting or more broadly aiming at opportunities). The nature of the program at the luncheon and alternatives were also discussed. It was decided to endorse Don and Jerry's proposal. The specifics of the luncheon would be discussed with Board members who might be interested. It was agreed that the lengthy discussion on leadership was important.

Newsletter. Leslie delivered "hard" copies of our January and April newsletters to the four MFRL libraries (Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd, and Shawsville) and got the names of library staff willing to receive digital copies in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 AM.