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**Marion-Polk Food Share**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**March 23, 2017**

**Board Members Attending**: Alex Beamer, Bernadette Mele, Brenda Tuomi, Cheryl Wells, Dick Yates, Eileen Zielinski, Esther Puentes, Frances Alvarado, George Happ, Jim Green, Julie Huckestein, Warren Bednarz, Walter Smith.

**Staff Members Attending:** Abisha Stone, Holly Larson, Julie Hambuchen, Rick Gaupo, Auzeen Rasaie, Eileen DiCicco, Mel Fuller, Mattie Jenkins, Alexis Stickel.

Call to Order:

**Alex Beamer** called the meeting to order at 8:16 a.m.

Guest Introductions:

**Rick Gaupo** welcomed **Susannah Morgan**, CEO of Oregon Food Bank.

**Advocacy and Board Engagement**

**Susannah Morgan** shared how OFB’s board of directors discuss and decide what issues OFB takes an active role in advocacy. A board of directors guides OFB’s public policy on advocacy. She discussed OFB’s three tiers approach, which are food today, food tomorrow, and food for all. The Oregon Food Bank board of directors sets parameters for staff, defining what issues they are allowed to advocate (food and nutrition-related issues). She discussed four questions to consider when taking an active role in advocacy, which are:

1. Will people ask us about it?

2. Is it something we can do something about?

3. How is it tied to the mission?

4. What is the chance of success?

**Susannah** mentioned to the board that if you’re not already signed up for advocacy report letter, please them know. In addition, **Rick** will be emailing a link regarding advocacy day, coming up on April 13th.

**Dick Yates** asked how OFB conducts and organizes work on advocacy issues. **Susannah** discussed the structure. OFB has three staff in advocacy: one for state level officials, one for metro-area officials, and one assigned to national officials. It is these responsibility of these staff to develop relationships with elected officials and their staffs and to understand the legislation and issues being proposed by these officials. She also discussed grass-tops organizing (connecting pantries with elected officials in their areas) and grass-roots organizing (public).

**Consent Agenda:**

**Alex Beamer** presented the following consent agenda items:

1. Board meeting minutes, February 23, 2017
2. MPFS financial statements ending February 28, 2017
3. MPFS Budget 16-17

**George Happ** motioned to approve all consent agenda items, **Jim Green** seconded, and the motion was unanimously moved.

**Aumsville Food Pantry**

MPFS’s Agency Relations Coordinator, **Auzeen Rasaie**, disscussed Aumsville Food Pantry located on Mill Creek Road. This pantry has been in operation for six months and show continuous growth.

**Mike Garrison** motioned to approve the Aumsville Food Pantry, **Warren Bednarz** seconded, and the motion was unanimously moved.

**Budget & Finance Update:**

**Jim Green** shared that the Food Share has a $400,000 surplus year-to-date, and that will drop to about $160,000 surplus by the end of the fiscal year. The Budget & Finance Committee recommends acceptance of February’s revised budget without further discussion needed.

Revenues and expenses are conservative.

There was some discussion regarding the $120,000 for salary adjustments. This philosophy has already been approved by the board for salaries, and now it is time to fund the plan. Rick will discuss with the board how these funds are going to be spent, to allow the board an opportunity to be informed of the progress.

Next board meeting will be rescheduled to the 20th next month – one week early.

Save the date board training poverty simulation on June 10th 2017

**Adjournment:**

**Alex Beamer** adjourned the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

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Courtney Knox Busch

Board Secretary