Marion-Polk Food Share

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2018

**Board Members Attending:** Frances Alvarado, Alex Beamer, Warren Bednarz, John Burt, Mike Garrison, Jim Green, Julie Huckestein, Brenda Tuomi, Bahaa Wanly

**Staff Members Attending:** Kendra Alexander,Kelly Crawford, Rob Crenshaw,Eileen DiCicco, Ian Dixon-McDonald, Aalicea Dominguez, Kimberly Fanshier, Rick Gaupo, Jim E. Green, Josh Gwin, Julie Hambuchen, Corrina Hawkins, Robbin Kerner, Lexi Stickel, Megan Williams,Cheryl Young

**Call to Order**

**Alex Beamer** called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

**Guest Introductions**

**Rick Gaupo** introduced **Sarah DeSantis**, executive director of Silverton Area Community Aid.

**Julie Hambuchen** introduced development staff present including the data services team, many of whom had not previously attended a board meeting.

**Ian Dixon-McDonald** announced that Lexi Stickel, our former Food Systems Manager, has been promoted to a new position, Director Community Programs. She will help advance our strategic initiatives. He also introduced several programs and operations staff members.

**Remembering Eileen Zielinski**

In remembrance of board member **Eileen Zielinski**, who recently passed away, board and staff shared their impressions. Eileen, who served the board for 22 years, was remembered as a dear friend, involved in her community, a rock for her family, warm, engaging and passionate about the community, an advocate for equality and social justice, and a visionary for the future who also helped to ground the board into today.

**Rick Gaupo** closed with the comment that Eileen had expressed this would be her last year on the board. Staff had planned to present her with a memory book. That book will be given to her family.

**Mission Moment**

Silverton Area Community Aid Executive Director **Sarah DeSantis** talked about the agency she has served as a volunteer and for the last year as ED. SACA serves the Silver Falls School District area, providing food and other services such as financial assistance for housing and utilities, cooking and Seed to Supper classes, and job and resource fairs. The pantry serves about 800 individuals per month and distributes about 1,800 pounds of food. It is well supported by the Food Share and its community. She said their board is considering offering more services and is collaborating with other community organizations to avoid duplication of services. The community looks to SACA for services. We have to figure out how to do more with our partners in community.

Rick Gaupo said that like the Aumsville Food Pantry, SACA has embraced a “food and…” model of serving its community as a resource center. The Food Share is happy to partner with SACA.

**Finance Update**

**Finance Committee Chair Jim Green** presented the financial report stating that the Food Share is financially strong.

**Consent Agenda**

* Board Meeting Minutes, March 22, 2018
* Financial Statements ending March 31, 2018

**ACTION: Warren Bednarz** moved and **Mike Garrison** seconded adoption of the consent agenda items. The vote was unanimous.

**Governance Committee Report**

**John Burt** presented the Governance Committee recommendations for board officers and committee chair appointments that will be effective September 1, 2018.

The slate of Board Officers is: Chair **Cheryl Wells**, Administrative Vice-Chair **Courtney Knox Busch**, Secretary **Brenda Tuomi** and Treasurer **Jim Green**.

**Alex Beamer** noted he will continue to serve on the board next year.

**ACTION: Warren Bednarz** moved and **Bahaa Wanly** seconded adoption of the officer slate. The vote was unanimous.

Committee Chair Appointments, also effective in September, include Executive Committee, **Cheryl Wells**; Finance Committee, **Jim Green**; Governance Committee, **Cheryl Wells**; and Community Impact Committee, **Courtney Knox Busch**.

**Warren Bednarz** questioned the load on Cheryl and was advised there is a plan to transition her from one of her two committee assignments soon after September.

**Development Update**

**VP of Development Julie Hambuchen** thanked board members for participating in the series of three sustainer appreciation luncheons. She acknowledged **Courtney**, **Jim** and **Mike Garrison** for their recent attendance. She mentioned that **Julie** and **John** are confirmed for the June event. She said **Warren** is planning to attend the May event, however, she would love to have one more board member.

Julie also thanked **Esther Puentes** for her participation as a board representative in a donor site visit at the Youth Farm that resulted in a $10,000 grant from Trust Management Services. She thanked staff that was involved as well.

Rick Gaupo praised **Julie Huckestein** for being an ambassador for our work. She selected the Youth Farm as one of the places to showcase Chemeketa Community College community involvement to a group of state legislators and asked Rick to be a part.

**Strategic Planning/Measuring Success**

**Alex Beamer** and **Rick Gaupo** asked the board to consider what success would look like to the Food Share in meeting its strategic objectives and how we would measure it.Rick recapped our focus areas as: access to food, community engagement, and addressing hunger, poverty and equity. We want to make sure we aren’t just measuring activity. We want to measure impact. Rick asked **Bahaa Wanly, Julie Huckestein** and **Brenda Tuomi** to share how their organizations think about success and opened the topic for discussion.

**Bahaa** **Wanly** said Salem Health uses a lean methodology framework that expresses the desired outcome to be accomplished in a particular time period and identifies data-driven process measures required to achieve those outcomes. While the hospital is paid for the services it provides, it’s trying to create a model that keeps people out of hospitals. He cautioned the Food Share board to make this an adaptive process that is frequently reviewed and changed when needed, not one that sits on a shelf.

**Julie Huckestein**, president of Chemeketa Community College, said in the educational environment it’s easy to measure activities, but harder to measure impact — how people change by the intervention you put in place. Success is more than the graduation rate; one needs to find out whether the preparation allowed the student to get a job or learn what they needed to learn. She said it takes a lot of people thinking in that way to make progress.

**Brenda Tuomi**, a member of the Grand Ronde Tribal Council, says they wrestle with defining success on daily basis. It includes defining self-sufficiency; deciding whether we need to be teaching in addition to proving supports. Measuring impact, she said, is most important.

**Warren Bednarz** said success means we’re out of business. No one needs food.

**Alex Beamer** asked VP of Programs **Ian Dixon-McDonald** for his thoughts. Ian shared that measuring impact at the individual and community levels is hard, however, there are tools that staff can and are using to explore impact. Staff is looking deeper into interviewing and surveying techniques that will explore how having access to food helps individuals accomplish other things in life. They are also examining big picture data such as food security rates in our counties and census districts; and meal gap data that expresses pounds of food required to meet the community need. He said we need to get better at surveying and questioning and convening focus groups. Food is one slice of larger issue of poverty and food justice. We need to figure out our part of the larger problems.

**Sarah DeSantis** said SACA grapples with this too. She shared a story about the group’s recent jobs and resource fair. Although only 60 people attended, at least one single mother, who needed to reenter the workforce, benefited from resume writing assistance that was provided. She was grateful to leave the event with an updated resume to help her get a job. If we only helped her, we were successful.

**Rick** concluded that the Food Share will continually wrestle with this issue. He said he is proud of staff work on this. He is looking to the Board to help us frame this work.

**Adjournment**

Alex Beamer adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Next board meeting is May 24, 2018; 8-9:30 a.m.

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Courtney Knox Busch

Board Secretary