

Marion-Polk Food Share
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
AWARE Food Pantry – Woodburn, OR
February 28, 2019

Board Members Attending: Frances Alvarado, Alex Beamer, John Burt, Warren Bednarz, Sarah DeSantis, Mike Garrison, Jim Green, Courtney Knox Busch, Bahaa Wanly, Cheryl Wells

Staff Members Attending: Kendra Alexander, Ian Dixon-McDonald, Rick Gaupo, Jim E. Green, Julie Hambuchen, Corrina Hawkins, Sheri Jones, Robbin Kerner, Savannah Langdon, Lexi Stickel, Cheryl Young

Call to Order

Cheryl Wells called the meeting to order at 8:17a.m.

Guest Introductions

Rick Gaupo introduced staff present.

Welcome to attenders: this meeting is being held in Woodburn to better understand the AWARE program and the work of the Food Share. There will be some recommendations regarding AWARE in the future, so this will provide some context.

AWARE Tour – Gabby

The last two days have seen some of the highest numbers served at AWARE.

Announcements

Cheryl Wells – Esther has communicated that she will no longer be able to serve on the board.

Executive Committee is beginning the Advocacy conversation. Any board member is welcome to join the meeting and the discussion. The first meeting was last week, and the next Executive Committee meeting is March 21st.

Frances – National Long-Sleeve Shirt Drive. Shirts collected will be distributed at the end of March. The goal is to donate 500 shirts. Any interested in donating can bring shirts to the next board meeting.

Board Meeting Consent Agenda

- Board Meeting Minutes, Dec 28, 2018
- January 2019 Financial Statements
- FY18-19 Revised Budget
- Concurring Resolution
- Bank Resolution for Signers

ACTION: Warren Bednarz moved and John Burt seconded the adoption of all consent agenda items. There was no discussion. The vote was unanimous. The signed resolution and Secretary's Certificate for the bank resolution will be included with the minutes.

Where AWARE is Headed - Rick

The current AWARE space is a huge step up from the previous location. Marion-Polk picked up the remaining debt, paid off their note, and now own this building which is both an asset and a liability. It is a great location, with a great ability to serve the community, but the space needs repair. As we declare our long-term intent, this will be a key part of the decision-making. Currently we are in a one-year contact that can be renewed. We are managing the staff and the program, raising funds under the AWARE name and keeping AWARE intact. We will need to make some fiscal choices at the end of the year, but the utmost goal is serving the community. The goal is for AWARE to be a hub for the Woodburn community, and a place for people to come and learn about SNAP and other programs. We want all the work here to be community-driven and community-engaged and to do all of this well.

There are three structural options for running this pantry:

1. Revitalize AWARE Board
2. Transfer program to another organization
3. Advisory board with Food Share management

Gabby mentioned the need to do more community outreach and is working hard to get the message out about what AWARE provides. Also, Gabby is working to remove barriers in order to allow people to come more than once a month for food when needed.

What's Next: Lexi – Community input

Gabby is making it clear that there is no need for identification and no one-month tracking. She is also focusing on volunteer recognition. And she is working only 25 hours/week here (compared with full time support plus a part-time at Grand Ronde).

The goal is to transition to RAD (Retail Agency Direct). Right now, a truck is provided from the Food Share which is not proven to be time-efficient for all, so the goal is to transition to volunteer help. A large food grant has been submitted for purchasing a van. After RAD, there will be a transition to a shopping style pantry. There are also plans for gardening with the courtyard being a possible space for training. More community education is needed.

A focus group was held last Thursday at AWARE for all Woodburn partners and was very impactful as it was the first time having this group meet together. Great ideas were shared, including community partners combining programs. Up next – sharing contact information and updated resources guide.

Board members are invited to join the client interviews that are being planned – an invitation will be sent. This information will be compiled and tracked. Additional community forums and focus group will be held as the months go on.

What's Next: Ian – What we are wrestling with

Lexi has done a great job in building a community team and continues to work toward doing this in a way that involves many parts of the community. Community Food Centers are much more than food pantries – they build community and advocacy and are more about change in systems and structures. Leadership of volunteers is encouraged. Our team is working on clarifying what we want to see in a high-functioning food pantry. The goals include offering good customer service, good nutrition, and building a strong internal organization. We want AWARE to excel in all of these.

Next month, we will start off the board meeting with board member reflections on this experience and answer any other questions which may arise. In April, we will come back to talk with the AWARE board to find out their desires. In May, we will discuss our recommendation.

Adjournment

Cheryl Wells adjourned the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

The next board meeting is March 28, 2019, 8-9:30 a.m.

Mark from the AWARE Board expressed gratitude for the work that Marion-Polk Food Share has done over the years and feels it has been important to the success of the community.

Dates to Remember

March 7: Board Social



Warren Bednarz
Board Secretary

