

Marion-Polk Food Share
Board of Directors Meeting Notes
March 28, 2019

Board Members Attending: Warren Bednarz, Alex Beamer, John Burt, Walter Smith, Cheryl Wells

Staff Members Attending: Eileen DiCicco, Ian Dixon-McDonald, Rick Gaupo, Jim E. Green, Corrina Hawkins, Sheri Jones, Allen Pfeiffer, Lexi Stickel, Cheryl Young

Call to Order

Cheryl Wells called the meeting to order at 8:16 a.m. Due to the lack of a quorum, no action was taken, but those present had lively discussions.

Guest Introductions

Rick Gaupo introduced staff present.

Board Profile – Sarah DeSantis

Sarah was not able to attend due to an emergency that required her attention. Instead, Cheryl asked those present to recount their favorite Spring Break memories. Most of those present recounted fondly remembered excursions and activities with family and friends.

Board Meeting Consent Agenda

- Board Meeting Minutes, February 28, 2019
- February 2019 Financial Statements

NO ACTION TAKEN

Finance Update

Jim E. Green shared checklist on page 5 of the board packet. He said we are in great shape. Our liquidity, operating surplus, donation revenue, expenses, capital revenue and capital expenditures are all in good shape. We are keeping our eye on donated food and program revenue, which are trending less than plan.

Rick reminded the board that we are still expecting a deficit at end of this year that was planned, although it looks like it will be less than originally presented. He said the leadership team will be coming to the board with a budget that will have some level of deficit again. While we are raising more money, we are also spending more money than ever before. The team is wrestling with health insurance to get that right.

Governance Committee

The proposed election of Chris Mercier to the board will be handled by email for the vote due to lack of quorum. Rick advised this method requires a unanimous vote.

Rick and Mike Garrison met with Chris. The Governance Committee believes Chris would be an asset to the board because of his affiliation with the Grand Ronde, participation in the community organizing FACT group for four years, his membership on the Tribal Council, and his passion for food access issues. Community Programs Director Lexi Stickel described Chris as an “always willing and active partner.”

Alex Beamer asked how Chris’ nomination aligns with Food Share goals. Cheryl responded he fits well as we have identified the Grand Ronde partnership as a priority relationship. Chris’ inclusion on the board fills a gap created with the resignation of Grand Ronde representative Brenda Tuomi about a year ago.

Rick noted that we are seeking to have a board that reflects the community we serve. Considerations include partnerships, skill sets, passion for the mission, as well as gender, geographic, ethnic and age diversity.

Development Update

Stewardship Director Corrina Hawkins presented the Development Update, which included the following:

- Invitation to board members to attend Sustainer Appreciation Lunches on April 4, May 9 and June 6. There’s still time for board members to sign up; and there’s a need for more board participation on April 4 in particular.
- Notification that the CenturyLink donation match campaign has ended with the company shifting its focus to employee giving. We are strategizing about how to fill the revenue hole that this creates. Rick noted there is no way to replace the funds this year, however, the team is working on securing donor matches for new donor acquisition, summer hunger, sustainer or major donors, and end-of-year giving.
- Thanked members for stewarding donors through hand-written thank you notes. Corrina said national research shows that volunteer board support and relationship building is important to donors. Rick called the board’s role in donor relations unique and powerful.
- Reminder that Farm to Table is set for July 13. We hope all board members will attend. Food Resourcing and Warehouse Operations Director Kendra Alexander will be the guest speaker.

Woodburn AWARE

Vice President of Programs Ian Dixon-McDonald invited feedback from the Board about last month’s visit to the AWARE food pantry in Woodburn. AWARE is located in a building that the Food Share owns. The Food Share is currently operating the pantry under a management contract with the AWARE board that ends in September. Staff will meet with the AWARE board in April and will provide an update and recommendation to our board in May about our continued participation in operating this food pantry.

Cheryl Wells said she was amazed at size of the building and enjoyed hearing from pantry coordinator Gabby Pena. As a result of the visit, she has changed her mind about ~~on~~ ^{THE POSSIBILITY} ^{OF CONTINUING} intervention. She is now excited about the opportunity it presents to co-locate community services and possibly serve as a pantry school for others.

Warren Bednarz said since we own the building, we could do more to maintain it. He prepared comments “from the facility side” that he will pass on to Rick. In all, he said the building has good bones, but needs some TLC.

John Burt said that about a year ago, costs to bring the building up to speed were estimated to be \$300,000 to \$500,000, which would require a community capital campaign. So far, we have a lot of deferred maintenance.

Rick noted that our investment in the building will be predicated upon our long-term vision for the program in Woodburn. The future of AWARE is yet unknown.

Lexi said a recently held Woodburn community discussion demonstrated there is a lot of enthusiasm among community organizations for change and improved service to community. Topics included a mobile pantry service to farmworkers, using our building as food distribution hub for all the Woodburn-area pantries and space for a clothing closet for the community, and possibly merging some pantries.

John Burt asked whether any other organizations have expressed interest in stepping up to take over operation of AWARE if its board decides to sunset. Lexi said St. Luke, which operates a tiny, well run St. Vincent de Paul pantry, has expressed interest.

Rick explained that unlike Grand Ronde, where we have a strong funding partner who owns the food pantry building, Woodburn would require community fundraising in order to help pay for services and improvements to the facility. He asked board members how they felt about using funds raised elsewhere to support the Woodburn area. Cheryl, Walter Smith and John said they felt people donate to the Food Share and entrust us to spend the funds where they are needed throughout our service area.

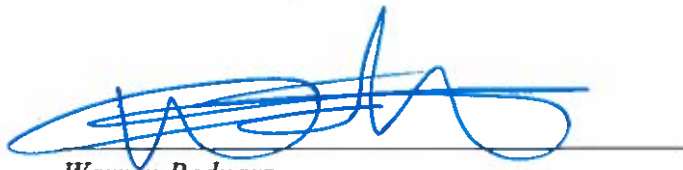
Alex asked whether there are other towns besides Woodburn where we are putting in this kind of effort. Lexi said staff is currently using a new GIS mapping tool that includes tons of data that is helping our team identify gaps in the community food system. She noted there are hot spots in Salem and there’s higher need in Stayton and Monmouth. The team is coming up with strategies, including the possibility of school pantries, to address these pockets of need.

Adjournment

Cheryl Wells adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Dates to Remember

The next board meeting is April 25, 2019, 8-9:30 a.m., Food Share Community Room

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Warren Bednarz
Board Secretary