

Nine Mile Community Center
Board of Directors Meeting
December 10, 2014

Board Members Present: Morris Eisert, Steve King, Betty Oleson, Lisa Schweigert, Sharon Sweeney, Shirley Weaver

Board Members Absent: Carolyn Demin, Karen Murphy, Jason Spaid

President Sharon Sweeney called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and asked if there were any additions to the agenda. None were proposed.

MINUTES: Minutes for November 12, 2014 were approved as amended (Steve King moved and Morris Eisert seconded). Correspondence included Craft Fair Thank You Notes (Bobbe Almer, Jani Albans, Jonnie Geber, Sapphire Mountain People, Betty Thisted, Richard Emery, Andrew Parker).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Carolyn Demin's Treasurer's Report was approved (Shirley Weaver moved and Lisa Schweigert seconded). Steve King commented on the Craft Fair's success and some of the financial metrics were reviewed on the transaction listing.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Event Schedule

Craft Fair Update – Sharon Sweeney is finishing the report. There were fewer vendor tables this year (partially by design to create more space) and Lisa Schweigert noted food was leftover. Shirley Weaver noted at least one vendor reported doing better in 2014 than 2013. The vendor survey noted sales ranging from \$300-\$800. The advertising effort was unchanged, but the weather report was threatening, there was a home UM football game and the Hilton Craft Fair competition may all have contributed to a lower turnout.

Bobbe Almer, with Board Approval, volunteered next year to:

1. Put all of the documents, posters, and flyers together and try to find a few more vendors. (Documents include the application, posters, vendor letter, etc., all done by email).
2. Handle the vendor apps/sign up, emails, and spread sheet and will turn checks over to Carolyn or to Sharon as they come in through the mail. (Apps need to come to me so that the business end is clean and consistent with no confusion.)
3. Put together the gift baskets.

Lisa Schweigert moved and Steve King seconded a motion to accept Bobbe's generous offer; the motion passed unanimously.

Christmas Eve – Carol Guthrie is organizing her volunteers. She has the program ready, the Angel Band is on-board to play, and the "Song Book" is laid out and being readied for printing. Glen Babcock agreed to MC, Jani Albans will lead the singing, and Rose MacDowell will read the Story of Christmas.¹

In the past the Community Center Board has done a number of things to get the area ready such as plowing the driveway, parking areas and pathways to the church, pavilion and bon fire, provided and stacked wood for the bon fire, helped set up the tables,, and provided some of the food and drinks. Carol asked if there will be volunteers to help with any of these, with setup planned for 11:00 am Sunday, December 21. Sharon, Steve and Betty volunteered to help with setup. Terry Geber affirmed he is available for snow plowing if needed before December 24. Morris Eisert volunteered to use his snow blower if needed on December 24.

Winterizing – It was agreed the building will be winterized Saturday, December 27 at 11:00 am. Steve King has a "sucking device" which can be used to remove water from toilet bowls and tanks. Questions arose regarding the propane heater. Sharon will ask Bob Brugh if he has advice; Morris Eisert will also check to see if there is a pilot light or just an off switch.

¹ Rose needed to cancel for a New York engagement.

Wedding Fair, January 11, 2015 – Morris Eisert attended an organizational meeting and reports booths need to be ready between 10:00 – 5:00. It was decided the \$50 value raffle gift will consist of donated wine. Donors can give their bottle to Sharon Sweeney Christmas Eve who will assemble the gift basket.

B. Finalize Rental Agreement – Karen Murphy noted improvements to the contract which add clarity to noise control issues. Higher rentals and deposits will help alleviate neighbor concerns. Sharon Sweeney presented comparable rental and deposit information. Steve King noted the price ranges were all over the map, from give aways to quite expensive. Beautiful outdoor venues such as Seeley Lake and Lubrecht are available for less money than NMCC's current prices. Steve also noted the deposit doesn't directly address noise or disturbances, and a price should be put on it if problems arise. Lisa Schweigert suggested if music or noise is not ceased by 9:00 pm, we will assess a penalty of forfeiture of 25% (\$200) of the deposit. All agreed. There was consensus on the \$800 deposit amount. Editing suggestions included:

- Clarifying trash cleanup expectations
- Clarifying items provided by NMCC (garbage bags, toilet paper, paper towels)
- Removing availability of dishes and utensils

Rental prices for the day of an event were discussed. Steve King resisted raising the prices, stating were well situated within the market and our rates are reasonable. He indicated he wants to see the buildings used. Lisa Schweigert affirmed it is a community center which needs to be available and affordable to the valley's citizens. She indicated the rates should be evaluated in a year. The summer is short, no events are scheduled yet for 2015, and unrestricted rent revenue is crucial to cover operating expenses. Morris indicated the rents should remain the same. Sharon stated she was initially in favor of raising the rents, but decided otherwise when she reviewed the comparables. Betty and Shirley spoke in favor of keeping the rates unchanged. A vote was taken and it was unanimous to keep the rental rates unchanged.

Rent for use of the facilities the day before or after an event were discussed. The parameters for usage were refined and it was agreed to raise the rent for the day before or after from \$100 to \$200. Shirley Weaver noted usage the extra days is more likely to produce garbage and increase utility costs. Betty Oleson moved to increase the rent the day before and day after from \$100 to \$200; Lisa Schweigert seconded and the motion passed.

Sharon Sweeney noted more specific Board policies and procedures are needed for managing rental events. Steve King suggested adding the topic to the February agenda.

C. Landscaping—Sharon Sweeney is ready to sow grass seed anytime. Lisa Schweigert asked where the seeding will occur. Sharon said everywhere but the parking lot. Lisa volunteered to help.

D. Windows Project – Sharon Sweeney reported the first invoice of \$12,200 was paid to Montana Glass and three windows remain to be installed along with hardware for opening the storm windows. Shopping for curtains is next. Six rods were purchased from Lowes and six more need to be purchased for the kitchen and classroom.

E. Propane Tank – Steve King presented pricing data for propane during 2013 and 2014 with explanations of the price increase during the winter of 2014. He recommended a summer fill and a late fall or December fill to top it off before high demand/ low supply conditions occur during the winter. He reported we have a good contract which charges 40 cents above wholesale. Steve also recommended installation of propane leak and carbon monoxide detectors, if they are not already in place. It was agreed Steve will call Northern Energy and request a refill.

F. Centennial Planning – Saturday, September 19 is an away game date for the UM Football team. It was agreed planning will be a priority item on the February agenda. Discussion of combining the event with the election occurred. It was felt the board capacity is too limited to plan and implement two separate events. Carol Guthrie plans to have her history of the valley to the publisher by June and will produce large historic photos for the event. Coordinating bluegrass musicians with the Bob and Judy Bungarz will proceed.

G. Action Items Update – The maintenance binder agenda item was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Spring Seminars – Sharon Sweeney asked if capacity has been reached on the Garden Seminar. Lisa Schweigert suggested a year off, but would repeat it if it makes money. No one asked Sharon to repeat the course at the Craft Fair and Pat Sweeney is also interested in a break. Numbers attending the Mushroom Seminar have also wanted.

A History topic is worthwhile and might be incorporated with a book signing of Carol Guthrie's book.

Small engine repair was Jason Spaid's idea. Lisa volunteered to call Jason to set a date; if Jason is too busy she will approach the instructor. Topics could include getting ATVs ready to run, lawn mowers, weed eaters, winterizing snow mobiles. Morris Eisert suggested Bill Kreis as a possible alternative to the Missoula College instructor. Presenters are not paid an honorarium and fees are \$20 and include lunch.

A basket weaving instructor might want a percent of the registration fee. Shirley Weaver indicated willingness to research the possibility of a winter quilting class. Lisa volunteered to investigate a Basic Life Support (CPR) class with Frenchtown Fire personnel.

B. Newsletter – A one-page newsletter for Christmas Eve will be sent to zip code 59846.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

SET NEXT MEETING DATE – February 11, 2015

Possible Agenda Items: Event Procedures; Spring classes; Centennial Event

Adjournment at 8:40 pm.