

FOCUS Board of Directors
May 21, 2015
Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEETING was called to order by Hon. Judge Gil McBride at approximately 6:04 p.m. Bill Searcey offered prayer.

Board members present: Charles Sweat, Bill Searcey, Gil McBride, Julie Nordin, Sally Cobb, Faye Garrett, Bob Patterson, Bill Scrantom, Samantha Link and Sally Clay Smith.

Others present: Sherrie Mundy, Thrift Shop manager.

Board members absent: David King, Jayson Johnston, Jenny Jackson, Mary Ellen Taylor, Willie Greene, Rhonda Howard, Janice Owens and Garvin Gourie, chaplain.

TREASURER'S REPORT -- Most all spending areas were below budget. Supplies and postage were higher because of the purchase of a new copier. April was a good month for income, especially the Thrift Shop. Bill Scrantom moved, Bob Patterson seconded, and report was approved.

MINUTES from March 19 meeting, e-mailed earlier to Board members, were unanimously approved. Bill Scrantom moved, Julie Nordin seconded to accept e-mail as formal approval.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT -- In summary, Executive Director Bill Searcey met with Jayson Johnson and Faye Garrett regarding fundraising and networking through the Chamber of Commerce. Bill will be participating in the Chamber's Adult Leadership program August through December of this year.

A most interesting opportunity for FOCUS is the Truancy Intervention Program. We will be looking for volunteers to mentor kids of middle school age who are referred to us through the juvenile justice court system. Training will take place at Twin Cedars. Headed by Hon. Gil McBride, this will be a great opportunity to help children stay in school and to have their court record expunged.

DEVELOPMENT/FUNDRAISING -- Faye Garrett reported that, so far, FOCUS has 4,635 pairs of shoes, on the way to our goal of 7,500. Charles Sweat motivated his employees at First Peoples Bank by offering perks, and they came up with 487 pairs.

Faye said her neighbor, Wynn Lee, wrote Title 1 and other grants for Muscogee County schools. Wynn is willing to meet with the fundraising committee to share ideas...some of which could be requesting "in-kind" donations, matching grants, perhaps becoming

part of United Way and looking into foundations that support ministries. Bill is working with Jayson on Family Fun Day, sponsored by the Chamber.

The **FOOD BANK** greatly benefitted from KFC's recent policy of freezing left-over food. Julie Nordin reported that KFC in Pine Mountain has partnered with FOCUS. Julie and Bob Kober pick up food twice each week and re-bag in family sized portions. Our clients love it, and KFC benefits from the donations. As a result, we have not needed to purchase meat from Feeding the Valley.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE – Samantha Link distributed a (Harris County) resource list that all Board members should review and keep updated...let Samantha know of additions/changes. Brandi Payne has been excellent about keeping social media and the website updated for FOCUS. Red Cross also indicated that they would share their resource list with FOCUS, and we'll consider which resources would be beneficial for Harris County residents.

FACILITIES – Charles Sweat has spent much time walking the property and considering ways to improve/expand the FOCUS facilities. He has met with Sherrie Mundy, Bill Searcey and Chance Carlisle to explore the possibility of adding on to the current structure. Adding just 500 square feet could cost upward to \$100,000. The facilities committee has examined separating Emergency Services and the Thrift Shop, with more of a "big picture" perspective...considering alternative ways of doing what we do. Charles challenged each of the Board to think about what we do and how we can do it with what we have.

The FOCUS logo was reviewed, with many thanks to Sherrie and those who helped her. After much discussion, a logo was selected and it was agreed the pre-dominant color would be red.

BYLAWS have been reviewed with much discussion among Bill Searcey, Gil McBride, David King and Bill Scramton. It was agreed that David should be present when a vote on any changes is taken.

It was discussed whether the Executive Director should be ex-officio or a voting member. Bill Searcey understands that the director should not vote, but the concern is if we add representatives from each area as voting members who report to him, they would have a vote when he does not. No voting board member should benefit financially from FOCUS (would be indicated in bylaws as non-compensated). It is essential that we maintain our non-profit status, so Bill Scramton will seek legal advice from a member of his firm.

We also discussed Article 6, how the slate of board members would be established and the terms of service, possibly having the Secretary and Treasurer serve 3 years each,

with alternative terms for other officers. It was also discussed whether to change December meeting to working meeting (without new candidates), use January for training of new members and have the Annual Meeting in February.

A concern was noted that since we have so few meetings each year, that board members should not miss more than two, to remain on the board. Further discussion will be held to resolve this issue.

Much discussion about whether to maintain a reserve to respond to needs as they arise and to have 3 months of operating expenses, or for expansion, and ways to spend approximately 10 percent of that current amount. Director Bill Searcey will offer a proposal of language to be considered at our next meeting.

Bylaws remain under revision.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:50 p.m.; Bob Patterson led a closing prayer.