

FOCUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 21, 2016
Board Meeting Minutes

MISSION STATEMENT: Our purpose, as Christians united, is to share Christian fellowship and to minister to the material, emotional, spiritual and educational needs of the people of Harris County.

BOARD MEETING was called to order by Chairman Bill Scrantom with a prayer offered by Chaplain Garvin Gourie.

Members present: Bill Scrantom, David King, Bill Searcey, Julie Nordin, Sally Cobb, Faye Garrett, Janice Owens, LaChandra Brundage, Mary Ellen Taylor, Rhonda Howard, Bob Patterson and Sally Clay Smith.

Board members unable to attend: Hon. Judge Gil McBride, Charles Sweat, Jayson Johnston and Willie Greene.

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES were approved after a motion from David King and second by Faye Garrett.

MARCH TREASURER'S REPORT/CASH FLOW STATEMENT was reviewed and compared to last year's numbers. Though the financial picture is still good, FOCUS could benefit from regular, sustained donations. A motion was made and seconded, and the treasurer's report was approved with no changes.

SCHOLARSHIP committee has done an amazing job fulfilling FOCUS's mission. Rhonda Howard, Mary Ellen Taylor, Janice Owens and Judy Westbrook reviewed 19 applications for traditional college scholarships, complete with essays. The students were asked to write about Servant Leadership, FOCUS or Where will I be 10 Years from now? The committee interviewed 6 candidates, then narrowed the pool to 4.

Rhonda said they had excellent candidates who showed maturity, understood FOCUS and want to give back to their community. After much discussion, a motion was made by Rhonda Howard and seconded by Janice Owens to award 4 scholarships this year. Their motion was approved. Discussion continued about how to continue and grow the scholarship program, possibly with partners.

We will host a reception for recipients and their families prior to our next board meeting, on June 16.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – With the departure of Samantha Link and Brandi Payne, David King is maintaining the website and newsletter. Sherrie Mundy is posting Thrift Shop information and Sally Clay Smith is helping with Facebook updates. Marketing is vital to the success of FOCUS. We need a communications-oriented volunteer. Suggestions included an

intern, the high school graphic design group, a senior (project), a college marketing major...Janice will contact the graphic design department at Harris County High.

MISSIONS AND PROGRAMS – Mary Ellen, Janice and Willie comprise this committee. Cubs for Christ is going very well at Park Elementary.

FUNDRAISING committee has applied for several grants and received one in January for home repairs. Bill Scramton will contact a local foundation coordinator for ideas for future applications. A suggestion was made to ~~hold~~ a raffle or auction ~~at the~~ volunteer banquet.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE emphasis is on educational outreach. Bill Searcey proposed a committee to oversee and assess current programs and help the outreach program grow. Bill has contacted Gil McBride, who will chair the committee. Other members will be Mary Ellen Taylor, LaChandra Brundage and Janice Owens. The thrift shop is in need of consistent volunteers, helping on a regular basis.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE consists of Chairman, Chair Elect and Past Chair, as well as officers. This committee will meet in months opposite Board meetings, and as otherwise needed.

FOOD PANTRY – Julie Nordin discussed the need for more food volunteers. Currently, she and her husband are picking up food from Feeding the Valley, and she and Bob Kober pick up from KFC. Thanksgiving food drive will need volunteers to spread the workload. It's a good opportunity for those able to volunteer for a short-term project. The partnership with Rotary to deliver food to those who are homebound is going well and meeting a great need in our county.

EMPTY BOWL was held April 16, 2016. Art teacher, Sondra Palmer, and the Art Club hosted a successful event, raising approximately \$3,000 for FOCUS. The soup chafers, burners and paper goods were provided by FOCUS. We also designed, printed, distributed and sold tickets. Julie Nordin and Faye Garrett will work together on Empty Bowl 2017.

FACILITIES – Bill Searcey announced that foundation work has begun on the new addition, the trees will be cleared Saturday and new parking spaces will be added. The relocating of the handicap ramp will be done by skilled volunteers. The HVAC system is being installed quickly, FOCUS has changed to Charter Internet, as well as opted for using natural gas instead of propane for heating.

VOLUNTEER BANQUET will likely be held in October. Bill Searcey will check with a speaker he has in mind, to get some dates, then we will see if FUMC Pine Mountain is available. Bill Scramton noted the importance of having elected officials and others join us, to get the FOCUS and mission out into the community.

MEETING DAYS/TIMES were discussed. It is difficult for some to attend on Thursdays. This discussion will continue.

SCORECARD is about A- for now. **FOCUS** is meeting some needs in our community, but we have loads of room for improvement.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm with a prayer offered by Chaplain Garvin Gourie.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Clay Smith
4/27/16