

FOCUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 16, 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: called to order at 6PM by Chairman Bill Scrantom with a prayer offered by David King.

Members present: Bill Scrantom, David King, Bill Searcey, Julie Nordin, Sally Cobb, Faye Garrett, Janice Owens, LaChandra Brundage, Rhonda Howard, Willie Greene, Charles Sweat

Board members unable to attend: Hon. Judge Gil McBride, Jayson Johnston and Mary Ellen Taylor, Sally Clay Smith, Bob Patterson

Guests present: TyOnnah Maddox, 2016 HCHS graduate and FOCUS Scholarship recipient, her mother and sister; son of Chairman Bill Scrantom, visiting of Charleston, SC

Previous minutes were approved after a motion from Charles Sweat and seconded by David King.

MARCH TREASURER'S REPORT/CASH FLOW STATEMENT was reviewed and compared to last year's numbers by Sally Cobb. Though the financial picture is still good, FOCUS could benefit from regular, sustained donations. The new HVAC system is the most recent big expense anticipated. A motion was made by David King and seconded by Charles Sweat, and the treasurer's report was approved with no changes.

SCHOLARSHIP: All scholarships were presented at the HCHS Awards Night, and letters were mailed to the recipients, inviting them to meet the FOCUS Executive Board on June 16 at 5:30PM. Refreshments were set up. Miss TyOnnah Maddox attended, along with her mother and younger sister. Rhonda Howard introduced TyOnnah and her family to the Board. TyOnnah will be attending Valdosta State University, and majoring in Nursing. Madeline Kindrick sent a message that she was attending orientation at UGA and was unable to attend.

VOLUNTEER BANQUET : Sally Cobb announced that the dinner will be held October 4, 2016, at 6PM at the First Methodist Church in Pine Mountain. The caterer will be same as last year, with church youth delivering plates to guests. Sally Clay is in charge of the menu and will report at a later meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE –David King is still maintaining the website and newsletter. There was discussion about the necessity to secure adequate staff, whether volunteer or paid

in order to maintain timely and consistent PR communication. David King noted that due to the large responsibility and absence of fulltime PR staff, we missed an opportunity for great PR by not including an article in the local paper about the FOCUS scholarships awarded. He added that we did get front page coverage of the renovation project. Bill Searcey added that he had someone set up to interview about working as a PR representative, but the person did not show up for the interview. Rhonda commented that we need a dedicated person to lead the PR committee. Bill Scrantom commented that due to the large responsibility of this position, we may need to hire someone part time to lead the Communications committee and volunteers, rather than relying on volunteers. Bill Searcey stated that if any Board member knows of someone who may be interested in working about 4 hours per week, to let him know.

FOOD PANTRY : Julie Nordin announced that she will be going tomorrow to stock the shelves. She announced that volunteers will be working on July 9 to get floors painted after Sherrie finishes moving things out. The partnership with Rotary to deliver food to those who are homebound is going well and meeting a great need in our county. According to Bill Searcey and Nordin, there has been a slight increase in the number of families being served, from 14 to 17 families, totaling about 51 bags.

FACILITIES – Bill Searcey announced that the new addition has just had the final inspection, and everything went well. The county worked well with FOCUS. He further stated that the new addition is better than was planned or envisioned, and that Carlisle services donated extra labor and services to “beef it up”. Bill Searcey noted that FOCUS had to provide additional parking and the electrical service has been provided for the new construction area. Things are going well. Sherrie is beginning to move things into the new addition. Bill Searcey and volunteers have built steps and landing onto rear entrance for the volunteers. David King suggested hosting an open house in October and inviting the public to view the new facility. The project is under budget. Remaining items to fund:

1. Build step platform to access delivery bins
2. Wheelchair accessible ramp to be re-routed
3. Signage
4. Additional security camera and sensors

HOME REPAIR: Bill Searcey reported that this is going well. He and volunteers recently built a wheelchair ramp in Waverly Hall for an amputee. He suggested that the Board members assist with similar projects in the future. Bill Searcey stated that there are 2-3 pending projects and shared that he is working to secure other resources to assist a veteran in West Point to repair damage to his home, caused by termites.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT: Bill Searcey reported that June 22 will be a workday in which about 20 students will volunteer for 3-4 hours to clean and organize the Thrift Store with Sherrie. He stated that the Thrift Shop needs volunteers to help organize and prepare shoes for shipping. Bill Searcey stated that he has written 3 grants, with the following results so far:

- Charter foundation donated \$5000, which is earmarked for home repairs in the West Point area.

- Crostel Family Foundation donated \$1000.
- Robins Foundation is pending. Bill Scrantom has contacted this foundation in support of the pending grant request..

Bill Scrantom added that he will be contacting the Marvin Schuster Foundation, on behalf of FOCUS to request a donation.

Bill Searcey announced that he met with ladies who are publishing a book to help children who are victims of sexual abuse, and would like FOCUS to purchase some books and that he will collaborate with Brundage regarding the best way to appropriately share this resource with students.

NEW BUSINESS: Rhonda Howard read Thank You cards from two scholarship recipients (Maddox and Kindrick). Rhonda shared that TyOnna is still in need to items to prepare for moving onto the college campus.

MISSIONS AND PROGRAMS – No report

FUNDRAISING –No report

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE : No report

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.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM with a prayer offered by Chairman Scrantom.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Owens
06/21/2016