

Livingston County CARES, Inc.
Approved Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting
December 3, 2008

The Board of Directors met in the MacVittie College Board Room on Wednesday, December 3, 2008. The meeting started at 3:00pm. The following board members were present: Elise Arneson, Jerry Alonzo, Karen Bailey, Kurt Christiansen, Dan Dimpfl, Joan Ellison, Marissa Evarts, Dick Hatheway, Tom Matthews, and Lori McEvoy.

Approval of the minutes: Arneson moved and Hatheway seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2008 board meeting. The minutes were approved.

President's Report: Matthews reported that our March trip is now filled. He also reported that 25 seats have been reserved for the May trip. He also reported that Livingston CARES received a check from the Good Search engine for \$27.85.

Nominating Committee Report: Ellison reported that the nominating committee recommended Karen Bailey for a three year term on our Board of Directors. Bailey has participated in three Livingston CARES trips as well as six other work trips to Mississippi. Ellison moved approval of Bailey and Dimpfl seconded the motion. Bailey was elected.

Scholarship Committee Report: Arneson reported from the Scholarship Committee (Arneson, Flannery, Fly, Lehman & Matthews) that the committee approved eight applications for financial aid for the 2009 trips to Mississippi with a total allocation of \$1,250.00. Additional requests are also likely for assistance for the March and May trips. She reported that the committee agreed to limit the financial assistance to \$200 per student. Dimpfl expressed concern that there might not be sufficient funds to cover requests for additional financial assistance. Matthews indicated that we should be in reasonably good financial shape at the end of the 2009 trips but we should be mindful that we are unlikely to receive another grant from Senator Volker in 2010 due to the state budget problems. Matthews reported that bus for our first March trip in 2006 cost \$10,000 and this year it will be over \$16,000.

Update on Trips: Matthews reported that Hatheway will be going on the February trip this year. He also reported that Mazza and Oswald will be joining the January trip for the dedication of the Livingston CARES flagpole at the Woolmarket Youth Recreation Complex. Matthews indicated that Livingston CARES has also contributed money to the Moore Community House and to the Woolmarket Youth Football League for equipment destroyed by Katrina. He also reported we have funds that were contributed by two garden clubs but we are waiting for a proposal from the new Harrison County Beautification Director before gifting any funds.

Matthews reported that the volunteers on the January and March trips will be housed at Camp Victor, which is run by the Lutheran Church. Matthews said that the teams would be working in East Biloxi on new house construction. He is hopeful that the work teams

will be able to meet the new house owners. Matthews indicated that that some of the teams will be working on the beautification of the streets and that each team will have a supervisor. The January participants are scheduled for an orientation meeting tonight and t-shirts and journal books have been purchased for the participants. He also noted that we need a coordinator for the May trip and asked for volunteers. Dimpfl suggested that the May trip has always been a nice blend of community and college students.

Cookbook Project: Arneson reported that she is working on the cookbook but does not have all the addresses of the owners of the houses we have worked on during previous trips. Livingston/Wyoming ARC will print the cookbook and we will use the cookbooks as a fundraiser. Alonzo suggested that we solicit two students from each of the work trips to assist with the project. Arneson reported that Edith Matthews has had experience compiling cookbooks and has volunteered to assist with the cookbook project.

By-laws Committee report – Arneson reported that she and Christiansen are working on a proposed set of specific by-laws for Livingston CARES. Our current by-laws use the state generic boiler plate language. The committee will propose language for discussion by the board at our January meeting.

IRS Tax Reporting: Matthews reported that Julie Matthews prepared the paper work for the New York State Charities Bureau registration. He signed the papers and submitted them to the charities bureau last month along with the \$25.00 registration fee. The company that we thought had submitted the paper work filed registration papers with the Secretary of State but not with the Charities Bureau. New York State law requires registration of public charities with both agencies. Matthews is hopeful that the additional filing will complete our compliance with all state and federal requirements.

Discussion on expanding our work trips: Matthews posed the question to the board on how we might respond to requests for assistance in disasters and other humanitarian needs outside of Mississippi. He recalled at our last meeting that Evarts and Flannery suggested selecting another humanitarian work site for one of our four annual trips. Ellison asked if anyone had checked with the Interfaith Center regarding their trips since we should not compete with other programs. Matthews indicated that some of the Newman Parish members will be going on the January trip. Christiansen volunteered to check with the Interfaith Center to find out what trips might be planned in the future. Dimpfl suggested that CARES is in a good position to bring the community and the college students together. He suggested that working on a Habitat house might make a good fit with our stated mission.

Matthews reported that a VISTA worker from Catholic Charities met with the staff to talk about local projects. He suggested that we invite the VISTA worker to a board meeting for a presentation. Bailey suggested that our volunteers have gained some skills during our work trips to Mississippi and perhaps we could use those skills on a local project. Alonzo suggested that we could consolidate a local project to do local two day work projects. Matthews reported that a student working on a Civic Engagement project plans to focus on adopting families that different organizations could adopt for longer than one-

shot deals. Matthews asked if the board members thought we should support such a project. Members indicated interest in exploring this project. Alonzo mentioned the Day of Caring and suggested that community members could work with the college students. Christiansen indicated an interest in supporting the suggestion that we explore new options for trips outside Mississippi. Evarts suggested that we consider one-day projects that to give students more choices. Christiansen suggested that we could take care of transportation and housing for these types of trips. Matthews reported that Associate Provost Dave Gordon asked if Livingston CARES could help with their El Sauce project and serve as the NGO. Matthews suggested we continue this discussion at our next meeting.

Board members agreed to schedule the next meeting at the end of January, skip February, and go back to our regular schedule by meeting on the first Wednesday in March.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Minutes submitted by Kay Fly, Secretary

Next meeting: January 28, 2008 from 3:00-4:00pm in the MacVittie Board Room.