

Livingston County CARES Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

April 6, 2009

Approved Minutes

The Board of Directors met at the Interfaith Center on Monday, April 6, 2009. The following board members were present: Marissa Evarts, Elyse Arneson, Wes Kennison, Lyle Lehman, Lori McEvoy, Dick Hatheway, Jerry Alonzo, Karen Bailey, Cynthia Oswald, Kay Fly, Tom Matthews and Amanda Flannery. Guests: Zach Monahan, Tim McMahan, and Andrew Demosthenous.

Matthews called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Approval of the Agenda: Kennison moved and Lehman seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved.

Approval of the Minutes: Alonzo moved and Hatheway seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2009 board meeting. The minutes were approved.

March Trip report: Matthews reported that the march Trip was a success. Arneson said that there were three work sites; a demolition site, one where they did dry wall repairs and the last site was priming and painting. Evarts said that one of the houses was 100 years old and priming, painting and texturizing was done. Mathews reported that there was an incident on the March trip involving alcohol. Students were advised that no alcohol was permitted on the trip and it was repeated at least twice on the trip by Elise Arneson and Amanda Flannery. The policy was not in writing but was very clear to all participants. Matthews said that the construction staff on the last day of the work week took some students to the beach and beer was provided. There were six students involved and four were underage. Matthews stated that there is an ongoing investigation through our judicial area and the Director of the East Biloxi Coordination, Relief & Redevelopment Agency is also conducting his own investigation. Lehman suggested that we should adopt a written alcohol policy and Kennison remarked that adults over 21 should also agree to refrain from alcohol on Livingston CARES trips.

Volunteer and Donor Recognition Dinner: Matthews reported that about 70 people were expected to come to the dinner tonight. He also indicated that several awards would be presented including certificates to the reporters from Livingston County News, to Senator Volker and County Administrator Nick Mazza as well as humanitarian awards to the trip leaders. Matthews also reported that Arneson produced the annual report for the dinner.

Fund Raising: Evarts reported that the Jail Break fundraiser is scheduled on April 14th-17th. Flannery said that she has emailed all the participants on the March trip about the fundraiser and has asked those students to forward the information to their professors.

Discussion: Zach Monahan submitted his proposal from Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities had a new program called Home, Safe, Home. It targeted at risk seniors and disabled persons in

need of both education and home safety modifications. Service projects could be installing handrails, ramps and stairs. For these projects in the local community Catholic Charities wants to partner with Livingston CARES. In the proposal were 4 elements: (1) that recruitment of clients and places would be done by Catholic Charities, (2) recruitment of volunteers would be done by Livingston CARES (3) funding would be done jointly and (4) a skilled supervisor would be Catholic Charities responsibility. McEvoy asked where Catholic Charities gets their funding and Monahan replied through a foundation and a grant but that was not enough money for the project. Alonzo asked what the budget would be for a specific job. Monahan stated that for building a ramp the cost would be \$3,000 for materials only. McEvoy asked if there would be a volunteer supervisor and Monahan reported there would always be a supervisor for the work sites. Lehman said that was important because of codes. Arneson asked if we would be asking for money for Livingston CARES as well as funding for Catholic Charities. Alonzo questioned if we would be "knocking on doors twice." Monahan said that catholic charities did not have enough money to support it. Matthews stated that Livingston CARES cannot afford \$3,000 because of our need to subsidize many students on work trips. Bailey asked if we would be doing 4 trips a year and Matthews reported that we have over 20 students for the May trip so we will likely have a demand for four trips in 2010. Alonzo said that the students fund most of their trips, and asked how that could fit into Monahan's projects? Alonzo asked if we could charge students to work in Nunda. Lehman asked Monahan to check on alternative spending. Monahan said that if a client was a veteran he could get the job done for free. McEvoy asked how long a project would be and Monahan replied that it would take a weekend using four volunteers. Alonzo asked if there might be other projects that would not be so expensive. Kennison said that we could handle volunteers but that capital was a reach for us. Alonzo suggested that Catholic Charities could ask some of the people they work with to come up with money. McEvoy suggested that maybe we start with a smaller project and Kennison suggested possibly starting with a clean-up project. Monahan responded that he would investigate other possible projects. A guest, Tim McMahan, who had worked for Catholic Charities in the past asked why Habitat wasn't doing these kinds of projects and Oswald responded said that the national Habitat organization does not generally support reconstruction projects. Matthews asked if the board wished to proceed with this partnership and what role we would play in providing financial resources.

Alonzo moved that Livingston CARES approve the concept of partnering with catholic Charities to provide volunteers for short weekend reconstruction projects in Livingston County with the understanding that Livingston CARES does not currently have the financial resources to support construction costs. Hatheway seconded the motion. The motion carried. A copy of the proposal from Catholic Charities is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

New member: Matthews introduced Andrew Demosthenous, the student chair of the new Council for Service Organizations (CSO). Demosthenous is willing to serve as a member of the CARES Board of Directors. Demosthenous said that he is a member of an organization called Men for Action and Change and is a GOLD mentor. He reported that CSO is made up of several student organizations that are dedicated to service including such groups as Habitat for Humanity and Rotaract. The CSO meets monthly to distribute information and recruit

volunteers. He said that CSO will be organizing a calendar of volunteer events. McEvoy asked if he could put the Crop walk on the agenda and Demosthenous responded that it would be discussed by the council.

Election: Lehman moved that Demosthenous be elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors. McEvoy seconded and the motion carried.

El Sauce: Matthews introduced Tim McMahan who has been to El Sauce several times. McMahan said that we have a Geneseo graduate in El sauce who has been serving as the on-site coordinator for the past year. He said that six groups of students have gone and there will be another group going in June. McMahan stated that El Sauce is now an approved Study Abroad Program at Geneseo. He said that the El Sauce Project will face a continuing challenge of funding and he is interested in continuing a discussion on how Livingston CARES may be able to assist in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Kay Fly, Secretary

Next meeting: May 6, 2009 at 3:00-4:00 PM in the Mc Vittie Union Boardroom.

Awards Presented at the Livingston CARES dinner on April 6:

Senator Dale Volker	Friend of Livingston CARES Award
Outstanding Community Partner Award	Dominic Mazza
Building Community Award	Livingston County News Mark Gillespie, Editor & Howard Appell, Reporter
Humanitarian Awards	Dan Dimpfl (May 2008 Trip Leader) Tom Wilson (February 2009 Trip Leader) Elise Arneson (March 2009 Trip Coordinat Amanda Flannery (March 2009 Trip Leader) Marissa Evarts (March 2009 Asst Trip Leader)