



Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my Brethren; you did it to me. Matthew 25:40

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Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
June 12, 2012

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Felege Hiywot Board of Directors was called to order by Darye Henry at 6:15 PM on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 in the Felege Hiywot Center.

Present:

Aster Bekele
Darye Henry
Lynn Wiegand
Chris Rothenberger
Lauren Nowlin
Valerie Tate
Gene Ford
Mary Studley
Bryan Richards (non-board)

Absent:

Ralph Taylor
Nicole Oglesby

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the May 8, 2012 meeting were approved and agenda for today's meeting was presented. Val Tate facilitated an orientation for board members.

New Business: Utilizing the Orientation Handbook, the following issues/topics were discussed and reviewed:

Mission statement: Aster explained the Ethiopian arm of the 3 arm mission statement and our roles. In the orphanage we support, there is a great need for supplies and gardening and dairy farm technical assistance that we have not been able to help meet. She has been working on the relationship with Farmer to Farmer and International 4H, the first of its kind in Ethiopia. They will be doing agricultural training, dairy farm development, and bee keeping, while maintaining a Purdue University connection. USAID is giving grant monies via Purdue/Winrock international to provide agricultural support. Board members expressed interest in learning more about this program and the orphans we support. It was suggested that this information be included as part of the current on line information. Currently we have; list of supported orphans, orphans waiting sponsors, cost and obligation of sponsorship. Possibly fundraising efforts on the orphans can be initiated.



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Urban Youth: There was a request to define “urban youth” as well as some confusion as to who is actually in that category and whom do we serve? Aster stated that our first priority is to help the underserved, at risk youth in our immediate neighborhood of Martindale / Brightwood area. We serve all urban youth, but we prioritize our local kids, and accept all youth, regardless of income.

A related issue is sustainability. How do we stay open if we continue to grow and give away our services for free? Do we operate at full capacity at zero income, or do we leave some space for youth capable of paying for our programs? Long term survivability and alternate sources of income need to be explored. Discussion will need to continue regarding the definition of “urban youth.”

Demographic Summary: Noted that the data was from the 2000 US census, request to get updated numbers from the more recent 2010 census. Lynn will ask Vicki to get updates. It was requested to also get data on ethnicities, especially the Ethiopian and Latino population in the area. Chris and Aster said we can learn more about our neighborhood’s demographics, including youths’ national heritage, by using tools such as SAVI Interactive.

History and Program: Review of some history...Aster talked about this summer’s camp, 6 weeks long. New structure this year:

- **Summer Camp** starts Tuesday, 9am-3pm full day. The shift to a full day camp was due to the kids’ readiness for additional content and experiences. This full day will allow campers to immerse more fully into the concepts/activities. We are “charging” \$10 per day, to place more value/commitment on attendees. Scholarships are available. Numbers are still being determined for attendance. Max capacity is 40 students per day. We will probably have 15 from Edna Martin Center, 15 from Oasis, and other youth from elsewhere.
- **YPress** education program will be presented for 2 weeks, M-F, to a select group of 9 students. Those students will learn about journalism in all formats and will do video projects. All equipment used will be left/given to the Center for future use. Dija Henry will be the staff point person.
- **Art for Heart** staff will be holding an art class on Saturdays for the GA2G kids, age 5-14. They will work on painting the periodic table in the lab building.



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Financials: Remove the old Profit & Loss and replace with the current one. No questions or discussion on this topic.

Board Roles and Responsibilities: Discussion about board members' commitment and ability to fulfill roles effectively.

- Commitment: Our board member will become more involved in planning and resource development as the year progresses. These are the baseline responsibilities for each board member:
 - Promote the center actively.
 - Attend center fundraisers and functions.
 - Come to meetings, be prepared, and RSVP in advance for each meeting.
 - Read the minutes and respond to items to which you have committed.
 - Contribute in whatever way your specific talent allows.
- Any board member who anticipates being too busy for these roles should talk to Aster or Darye about switching to a more suitable role. We want to ensure our board is full of members who play passionate and active leadership roles.
- Each board member should think about the organization's needs. This mindset is different from focusing only on the items most relevant to a given person's background or interests. Board members should consider ideas in terms of mission fit, FHC's capabilities and resources, and alignment with community needs.
- The board discussed the direction of the center and how the center is growing. The need for active, participative board members is essential to the long term success and viability of the center. Along with this growth comes the need for support services and a succession plan in Aster's absence or in case of emergency.
- Aster is shifting to overall management and representation of the center, and away from day-to-day program coordination. Ginny will be instrumental in leading the summer programs this year.

Strategic Planning: Bryan Richards updated us on our planning activities. He and Aster are chronicling the current environment and identifying key issues for the center's future. As the summer progresses, our board will decide which opportunities to pursue based on our capacity and our support network. Task forces have been assigned and scheduled based on each board member's interests. Bryan showed our summer task force schedule and encouraged board members to attend the task force meetings in which they had volunteered to participate. Meetings will be held at the center unless otherwise agreed upon by meeting attendees.



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Wrap up and Conclusion:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm. Next FHC Board meeting will be Tuesday, July 10 at 6:00 PM. That meeting will be in place of the earlier planned 5:30 education and culture task force, and it will focus on education, culture, and other strategic planning topics.

Minutes submitted by: Lynn Wiegand

Approved by: Aster Bekele