

Felege Hiywot Center
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes, July 10, 2012

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Felege Hiywot Board of Directors was called to order by Darye Henry at 6:05 PM on Tuesday, July 10, 2012 in the Felege Hiywot Center.

Present:

Aster Bekele
Darye Henry
Lynn Wiegand
Chris Rothenberger
Lauren Nowlin
Bryan Richards
Ralph Taylor
Mary Studley

Absent:

Valerie Tate
Nicole Oglesby

Guest: Lauren Wiegand, Aspen Impact Intern

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the June 12, 2012 meeting were approved. Guest, Lauren Wiegand, also approved to be a participant in the meeting's discussion.

UPDATES:

Aster: Summer camp update. Currently in the fourth week of summer camp. All day offering has been going well. Number of campers ranges from 10-25 students per day. The YPress student group has finished their program of study which culminated in a video of interviews and news from the community. Will have date for viewing their project video soon.

Wednesday group of 7th and 8th graders are having fun in engineering sessions with MTM engineers. Did an egg drop, had fun and really are responding to this group.

Next Monday is children's Black Expo..doing soil and worms hands on table, taking microscopes....Aster, Ginny and junior counselors will be going and presenting soil science lessons and monitoring microscopes

Challenge has been orienting new staff/counselors

Consistency of attendance at this summer camp has been better than last summer. We think adding a cost has been a factor as well as keeping the kids engaged and interested all day long. They seem to love it, have 90 plus kids in summer program. Smaller numbers have helped staff to focus on better educational experiences.

Parent involvement is still low. Aster will be sending home photos, and summaries to parents. Most kids come with day care programs and very few have actual families bringing them. The few families that do stop in enjoy center activities and are already engaged. Oasis and Edna Martin parents will receive summary booklet to show what their students did all summer.

Aster will be attending back to school events to recruit for afterschool programming, classes, etc.

Status of Quentin's healthcare assistance: appointments are made for medical needs in August, Medicaid has been extended.

Chris Rothenberger....security system has been repaired and is operating.

Bryan Richards: Suggested that we ask YPress to send us videos made in class for us to share with our supporters, to show activities of our summer program. Now that we have the technology from ypress, it is important for that group to utilize their skills and equipment to continue their learning and create their own publication/outreach. Staff member, Dija Henry could expedite this effort.

Bryan suggested we plan a media day to engage press and help promote our story...have campers demonstrating some of our science activities.

Darye suggested that we set up a blog for the ypress kids, could be a simple way for them to communicate /use their skills

Connecting with parents is an ongoing priority and challenge. Mary suggested that we get parent's cell phones and send pictures of their kids during the camp day.

Trying to connect with parents of kids in IPS schools 51,56,69 to funnel them into the fall school program. Discussion of offering a Saturday option for our summer students that don't attend our target schools.

Community council meeting: the students that FHC have taught this past school year had increased ISTEP scores in math and language arts. Have been asked to teach more kids next year. FHC is collaborating with teaching staff to reinforce concepts and use all subject areas. Taught dictionary skills, teamwork, science lessons crossed over all subject areas.

Lauren suggested that Aster take one class /group and chart their progress and document progress. By virtue of being part of the IUPUI community schools tracking program, these students are already being tracked. Data will be generated regarding FHC student exposure.

Ypress- signed up one of our students to join ypress program on an on going basis.

Basic Gardening Class via IUPUI adult learning center was commenced. Ginny taught a class of 3 people. Good start for this ongoing effort.

End of summer report will be generated, in form of a booklet of pictures, summaries of activities, lab work. Will utilize East 91st street church volunteers to help with producing the report/booklet.

Strategy Update: Bryan

Have had discussions with groups, buildings and land group have looked at area properties and evaluated for our future needs. City has printed map of the Martindale Brightwood area and we have identified properties and how we might cluster our activities. Churches, stores, community space have been identified for us to evaluate where the activity is clustered and where we could safely and effectively focus our programs. Requirements for site clusters we will operate...need green space, short walk/bike ride, running water, safe soil, electricity. Facility requirements are outdoor garden, indoor classroom, greenhouse, playing fields, shelter, bathrooms. Our goal is to develop approach around our requirements and program goals.

Have identified other garden programs around town. Our goal may be to provide guidance and support, not run/manage it. A lot of fragmented info out there, many more gardens, but not listed.

Edna Martin cdc coordinator, Ms. Rodgers, is helping to identify properties available and resources available to finance.

City Initiatives: Sustainable development assessment team has touched upon this area and incorporate into our planning along 16th St.

Education and Culture: priorities survey completed by board members.
Changes from the present: questions passed out to complete

Community Input Ideas: identifying people in the community who can assist us in obtaining information relevant to our goals.

Please give feedback asap this week so that we can continue movement.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Next meeting August 14, 2012

Minutes submitted by: Lynn Wigand
Minutes approved by: