

Marion Polk Food Share
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2020

Board Members Attending: Frances Alvarado, Alex Beamer, John Burt, Courtney Knox Busch, Sarah DeSantis, Mike Garrison, Jim Green, Julie Huckestein, Chris Mercier, Linda Norris, Debbie Sailer, Bahaa Wanly

Staff Members Attending: Kendra Alexander, Eileen DiCicco, Ian Dixon-McDonald, Rick Gaupo, Jim Green, Julie Hambuchen, Sheri Jones, Savannah Langdon, Allen Pfeiffer

Call to Order

Courtney Knox Busch called the meeting to order at 8:22 a.m.

Guest Introductions

There were no guests needing introduction. **Rick Gaupo** invited board members and their families to March 5 repack to get sense of the day to day of the Food Share's mission. He also noted that the March meeting will be held March 19th instead of March 28th due to spring break.

Courtney Knox Busch passed Food Share logo wear options around to board members to order if they wish.

Board Meeting Consent Agenda

- Board Meeting Minutes, Dec. 5, 2019
- January 2020 Financial Statements

ACTION: Jim Green moved and Bahaa Wanly seconded approval of items on the consent agenda. The motion received unanimous approval.

Board Member Profile

Chris Mercier gave board members a glimpse into his life and background. presented a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- July 30, 1975 born in McMinnville. Raised in Salem with stops in Carlton, Independence and Eugene. Graduated North Salem High, 1993. University of Oregon 1998, BA Journalism and Communication. Presently completing his last semester at Lewis & Clark Law School. He has lived in five states; Oregon is his favorite.
- He has spent one-third of his life as an elected tribal council member for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. His focus is transparency, intergovernmental relations, equality of equity of services regardless of where one lives. He has served on about a dozen outside boards.

- Hobbies: travel to 50 countries; reading – originally he was a literature major; lifelong lover of movies; nature – grew up spending summers camping. He showed photos of some of his travels to Cuba, Buenos Aires, Banff National Park in Canada. He’s hoping to go to the European Cup in Glasko this year.
- Chris lives in tribal housing near Iskam Mək^hMək-Haws and can see the difference this food bank is making in the lives of people in the Grand Ronde community.

Finance Report

Jim E. Green recapped the January 2020 financials. The Food Share is in great shape. We are now projecting a surplus of \$200,000 to \$300,000 instead of a deficit of \$150,000.

Development Report

Julie Hambuchen said the board would receive updated revenue projections next month. Members were encouraged to attend Sustainer Appreciation Lunches on April 2, May 7 and June 4. She asked the she or Corrina Hawkins be told if a member is coming.

She reported completion of two successful donor matching campaigns and said the team’s efforts will be turned to the current sustainer match which is lagging.

She reported relationship building successes with the Collins Foundation, which approved a \$40,000 grant for AWARE. Rick and John Hawkins met with Norm Brenden, who has committed \$300,000 to the Food Share, with a probable commitment for an additional \$100,000. Rick credited the success to the core work the Food Share is doing in the community.

Board Retreat Follow-up: What’s Next

Rick Gaupo recapped the February 1 board retreat. He observed that the pillars of Access, Community Engagement, Equity, and Organizational Capacity were more important than the 13 strategies for achieving results as they all inter-relate. He presented the idea of spending one year building the base for a 3-year action plan.

Staff is working on the one-year base building action plan that will be presented to the Board for a vote in April. Rick said he believes the highest priority for next fiscal year should be strengthening our organizational capacity. He noted that our community outreach efforts have been growing at a quicker pace than our internal infrastructure and the “seams” are being stretched. He believes additional fundraising staff will be required.

Rick said that staff will reevaluate our food distribution model in year 1 of the plan — identifying community pockets that are having difficulty accessing food and assessing how to best reach them. Next year, staff will create a better evaluation tool to capture client-based feedback. Rick also said he’d like to see a staff coaching and mentoring structure put in place.

Board Discussion Highlights:

Jim Green and Debbie Sailler supported the suggested 1-year/3-year structure presented. Julie Huckestein added that she likes the 3-year approach. Bahaa Wanly encouraged developing a 3-5 year strategy.

Alex Beamer said we should set our sights on 10 years from now and consider whether we will need a capital campaign. Are we going to decentralize or centralize? He is concerned that the model presented is short-term instead of long-term. Rick said that to operationalize a long-term plan, he believes that building 3-year plans on the 1-year base are a way to keep working toward a 10-year vision.

Courtney Knox Busch said we also need to find a way to keep track of the investment policies already sent in place, such as overall employee compensation, health care compensation Board guidance, financial policies, facilities and the like need to be tracked.

Other concerns included: the impact of TEFAP changes on our member agencies; how do we prioritize how and to whom we give food; which partnerships are effective?

Rick invited calls and feedback from Board members. He said staff will come back to board with high level, measurable plan of action.

Adjournment

Courtney Knox Busch adjourned the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

Dates to Remember

March 5 – Board Social & VAC Repack Shift (4:30-6 p.m.)

March 26 – Board Meeting (because this is spring break week, watch for a potential date change to March 19 to be confirmed at February board meeting.)

Warren Bednarz
Board Secretary