

Marion Polk Food Share
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2020 — Held virtually via conference call & web support

Board Members Attending: Frances Alvarado, Alex Beamer, Warren Bednarz, John Burt, Courtney Knox Busch, Sarah DeSantis, Mike Garrison, Jim Green, Julie Huckestein, Chris Mercier, Holly Nelson, Linda Norris, Debbie Sailer, Walter Smith, Mark Wilk

Staff Members Attending: Kendra Alexander, Eileen DiCicco, Ian Dixon-McDonald, Rick Gaupo, Jim Green, Julie Hambuchen, Corrina Hawkins, Sheri Jones

Call to Order

Courtney Knox Busch called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m. Roll call taken.

Board Meeting Minutes

- Board Meeting Minutes, Feb. 27, 2020

ACTION: Warren Bednarz moved and John Burt seconded approval of Feb. 27, 2020 minutes. The motion passed unopposed.

Finance Statements Resolutions & Revised Budget

YTD Financial Statements:

Jim E. Green referred board members to the financial packet and said the Food Share is in a strong position financially. Revenue in January and February was higher than expected.

Board Designated Funds for Woodburn Service Area:

Jim E. Green shared a resolution that would allow the approximate \$39,000 AWARE contribution from the transfer of assets to be designated for AWARE use in the future.

FY19-20 Revised Budget:

Jim E. Green said the revised budget reflects the good performance to date. He referred members to the table prepared to show the difference between the existing approved budget in December 2019 and the 2020 March proposed budget. We've moved to a budget showing a surplus of \$265K from \$151,000 deficit budget. Donations are coming in stronger than expected. However, Jim said there may be an unrealized loss from equity markets that would impact investment revenue.

Alex Beamer expressed concern that we may see reduced donations as the economy changes over the next several months. Rick concurred that we don't know what's going to happen as a result of coronavirus. He noted that Oregon Food Bank just received a \$1 million donation. He acknowledged that the financial impacts will influence how we budget next year.

Warren Bednarz noted that after the 2007 recession people stepped up their donations. He speculates the Food Share would be good for the next year or two if history repeats.

Courtney Knox Busch added we can't mitigate for what we don't know. We can just do the best we can for moment were in.

Rick believes we will end this fiscal year with healthy surplus. When we revise the budget going forward, we will look at fundraising response. We should not expect same interest rate.

ACTION: Warren Bednarz moved and **Debbie Sailer** seconded adoption of the revised budget for FY20. Motion carried unopposed.

Approval of Mission Statement

Our mission is to bring people together to end hunger and its root causes.

The proposed new mission statement was presented. Rick said the leadership team was striving for a succinct message about what we do, how we do it and why. We bring people together (reader can see themselves as part of the solution) to end hunger today and address the root causes that affect hunger tomorrow.

After a brief discussion about the inclusion of root causes and omission of improved health in the statement, there was consensus that the mission statement was a good expression of what we're about.

ACTION: Warren Bednarz moved to adopt the new mission statement. Mike seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

Development Report

Julie Hambuchen advised that the upcoming estate planning seminar and first sustainer luncheon and possibly the second have been postponed. Farm to Table is up in air. She noted we are struggling to meet the \$100K Brendon sustainer match this year. So far, we're at \$40K. Board members will be individually invited to increase their sustainer gifts. Commitments need to be made by June 30 to count toward the match.

Warren B. asked about the impact of cancelling Farm to Table. Julie said staff is looking at ways to engage potential donors through a virtual event. Last year, Farm to Table grossed \$210K. Julie didn't know the net figure off-hand and said she would provide it later.

Courtney noted that the biggest value of the events is the connection. This will be an ongoing challenge keeping people connected amid social distancing. She encourage using social networks to increase connectivity.

Coronavirus Update

Rick Gaupo said Ian and Kendra are lead in what we are doing in community. While some staff are working from home, others are required to get food out the door. We have fewer volunteers in the warehouse. Between now and end next week, no groups or outside volunteers will be allowed in the warehouse. We are evaluating if we can use volunteers and still maintain social distancing. We are bringing food to pantries. On Monday, however, warehouse shopping will be changed. Foods will be brought out to the curb instead of allowing agency shoppers into the building. We are monitoring which pantries are open and which are closed (so far 4 are closed).

We are providing operating guidelines to our partners. Outdoor distribution is recommended. We're saying keep distant, short interactions, provide pre-boxed food. We think everyone understands. When this is past, we will go back to our volunteer/client engaged shopping-style model.

Mark Wilk noted he has heard from several people this week who are pleased with the way AWARE is handling to COVID-19 response. Ian noted that the Food Share is using the AWARE and Grand Ronde pantries to develop best practices. One problem being encountered more and more is the shortage of volunteers.

Frances Alvarado said she could put out the call for more AWARE volunteers through the Woodburn Community Forum. She said Oregon Human Development Corp may close its office and work from home. Everyone is hunkering down. People are getting nervous. There's fear of not having food. How do we help those who aren't getting a lot of information?

Numerous contingencies are being considered by staff including working with a handful of pantries; working with Salem/Keizer School District to set up distribution at their meal sites, possibly using the Kroc Center as a direct distribution point, etc.

MOW qualifies as an essential service. City of Salem has allowed MOW to operate even though the Center 50+ is closed to the public. Closed So. Salem. Grab n go lunch service at 50+ is serving about 60 instead of 125. Driver pickup and distribution has changed to allow for more spacing. We have more kitchen capacity because we're not doing the community meals. We're serving cold trays only, client to heat up the entree. We may keep some of these efficiencies after the crisis is over. We are directing volunteers to MOW to meet the growing need for replacement drivers. Volunteers are no longer going into the home.

What is the backup plan if staff is compromised? What if there's a need to deliver food boxes at the door. Model of MOW might have capacity.

We're putting out the message to donors supporting us. Check out our website. Julie Hambuchen said online giving is going well in response to messaging.

Linda Norris suggested we need to reassure people and let them know we're on top of things. Julie Hambuchen said we are doing that via email and a mailing is in the works. We are putting information out on social media as well.

Rick said we have received a few calls from businesses that want to pay their employees to help the Food Share out.

Courtney outlined some of the measures that the City of Salem is taking to slow the spread of virus.

Rick invited board to email any suggestions they may have for response options. He also told the board they are amazing board members and community ambassadors.

Sarah DeSantis, who has been running around trying to get food out door at SACA, said she has appreciated guidance received from the Food Share's Agency Relations team. SACA is dealing with food and staff shortages. The more communication we can have with pantries the better, she said noting, these are exciting and overwhelming times.

Adjournment

Courtney Knox Busch adjourned the meeting at 9:27 a.m. Courtney closed the meeting wishing everyone the best of luck.

Dates to Remember

No April Board Meeting

May 28 — Board Meeting

June 25 — Board Meeting

July 10 — Farm to Table

Warren Bednarz
Board Secretary