

Youth Development Council of Greene County Board Meeting July 17, 2014

Present: Pete Costigan, Roy Dye, Janet Frye, Bishop Jackson, Ron Morris (President), Barbara Nye, Bert Nye, Jane Piver, Ginny Reese, Carl Schmitt

Guests: Bernie Bennett, J.B. McKinnie, Judy Neall, Becky Turner, Calvin Turner

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of May 15 and June 19 were approved with one amendment to the May minutes. The date of the next meeting listed in the May minutes was incorrect and should have been June 19.

Treasurer's Report: (Bishop Jackson) The ending balance in the YDC checking account as of 7/16/2014 is \$34,569.78. Deposits in May after May 13 were \$2,150.00. Deposits in June were \$7,905.00. Expenditures in June totaled \$5,238.26, covering payments to Spring Hill Baptist Church (\$2,507.50), Greene County Transit for transportation of campers (\$484), Chameleon Silk Screen Company for t-shirts (\$482), and Mike Alley, YDC staff payroll (\$1,764.76). Payments to Spring Hill Baptist are for payroll for YDC summer camp senior camp counselors. The Treasurer's report was approved by the Board.

Bert Nye, Assistant Treasurer, reported that Summer Camp expenditures are running under budget primarily due to fewer Campers riding Greene County transit, due to Camper absences and that eight campers are being transported by parents. Roy Dye noted that a special donation had been made to cover the \$35 Camp fee for some families.

Committee Reports:

Summer Camp Program: (Mike Alley) The Summer Camp has been going well, with the kids seeming satisfied, and parents being very supportive and happy with the camp, even in cases where there have been minor behavior issues. Some campers are not attending consistently every day of camp due to issues at home. Attendance has been averaging about 16 campers per day. There are 23 campers enrolled, not including the four junior counselors. The camp has lost two campers permanently, including one who has never shown up, and one whose family has moved out of the area. Mike has been meeting one on one with campers about what is going on in their lives at home. Mike has also been talking to parents about what activities they would like to see in the Fall and Winter. One issue that's come up has been that many campers have not had breakfast before they come to camp, so the Camp has been providing small snacks early in the morning to help with that. He reported that campers are now divided into four groups daily, rather than one large group as in the beginning, and that the Camp has had about a dozen volunteer high school students helping out. Carl Schmitt asked that a list of the volunteers be provided. Mike feels that the needs of this group of campers are such that one leader is needed per two kids (the usual number in most summer camps is one to five) He noted that this will need to be talked about for next year's camp. He also said that he feels that character based life skills is what this group of campers needs, rather than academics, since without that background they are not prepared to absorb academics. Ron Morris asked the Turner parents for their

observations on their children's reaction to camp, and these were extremely positive and enthusiastic. Jane Piver asked that Mike give the YDC Board a complete de-briefing after this summer's Camp is over. Mike Alley will be on vacation for a week beginning August 2.

Ron Morris briefed the Board on an issue that has come up, which is licensing for Summer Camps. As originally planned, the six week duration of the YDC Camp, would put us 3 days over a 20 day limit which would then require the Camp to be in compliance with licensure regulations by the State. Special camps devoted to one particular topic or activity can operate for up to 25 days, without the need for licensure. The fifth week of the YDC camp is the Sports camp through Spring Hill Baptist and can be counted as a separate Camp week. In order to be in compliance, the Camp has three options:

1. End Camp early, at the end of the 5th week, putting the Camp at 19 days long.
2. Invite parents to participate (so that regulations would not apply)
3. Change Camp policy such that children are permitted to walk off the premises at any time (the Boy's and Girl's Club model)

The recommendation by Mike Alley was for option #1. After discussion, a motion was made and passed by the Board to end Camp at the end of the 5th week, including a first preference being of taking the field trip to Shenandoah National Park on Friday July 25th, with an amendment of latitude to take the field trip during the 6th week if necessary, and to hold a celebration picnic for campers and families on Tuesday, July 29th in the evening at 6 pm at Dover Foxcroft. Money is available in the Camp budget to buy food for the celebration picnic. It was agreed that senior counselor interns will be paid for the entire 6 weeks as was the agreement, and that interns will use the 6th week to visit families to find out what parents and kids want in terms of their aspirations, needs, and dreams and also to help them to fill out the Assessment tool earlier sent out to public school families by email which uses Survey Monkey to tabulate responses.

Fundraising:

BAMA works Grant: (Pete Costigan) The BAMA works application for a \$10,000.00 grant is due August 1st. Four documents were emailed to Board members including a cover letter for the grant, an organization description describing what YDC has done so far, and two alternative proposal narratives, describing two pilot programs for YDC. The first described pilot is a scholarship program to run through the school year beginning in early 2015, and designed to provide funds for well designed and staffed programs already in place in our community for promising kids who could not otherwise afford to attend, for example, programs of Greene County's Parks and Recreation Department or 4-H programs. Scholarships for programs in Charlottesville fitting a child's needs could also be eligible, if not available in Greene. The second is an after-school program one or two afternoons per week beginning in early 2015, which would be replaced by a multi day per week program in the fall of 2015. The main difference between the two proposal narratives was in the percentages of funds allocated between the scholarship program and the afterschool program.

Additionally, Ron Morris shared information from his research about licensure requirements for after-school programs. In order to avoid the requirement for State licensure an afterschool program must be less than six hours per week, cannot serve children under 6 years old, and places specific limits on the length of individual activities.

After some discussion of the proposals, Roy Dye voiced the strong opinion that the part of the proposal focusing on the scholarship pilot dilutes the strength of the grant application, and is unlikely to be favorably regarded by the granting foundation, and that YDC probably has the funds already to do the scholarship pilot program in any case. After more discussion about probable costs for teachers tutoring in the after-school, kinds of activities that are most important, and which specific children should be served, there seemed to be general agreement emerging.

The consensus that evolved included the following points:

1. The grant application should focus only on the after-school program, as the strongest most logical next step, building on YDC summer experiences.
2. YDC's next step must include curriculum development designed to address character building, attitude, self esteem and motivation.
3. The after-school program in early 2015 should focus on the 25 or so kids from this year's summer camp, drawing on the larger pool of the 75 kids recommended by the school guidance departments if numbers are needed, with the intention that the after-school program expand to open it up to all kids in the fall of 2015 if funds allow.

Guests were asked for their thoughts about the discussion, which were given. With this, Ron Morris suggested that it be left to the grant committee to hammer out the details of the BAMA works proposal for the August 1 submission.

The agenda items under Corporate / Organizational Matters were tabled until the next meeting. The next meeting of the YDC Board will be on August 28th at 5 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ginny Reese