

ASSET BUILDING IN OUR COMMUNITY
Board Minutes
April 14, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Jan McRee and opened with prayer. Those in attendance included: Mike McGahn, Ron Byerly, Ed McRee, Karen Abrahamson, Clarence Brown, Claudia Brown, Gary Vittoz, Dee Cassidy, Mary Frazier, and Jan McRee.

With Hobby's Rock coming in early May, numerous items needed to be addressed regarding that project. The first item was a discussion regarding snack preparation and who would take that responsibility. It was agreed that Jan and Gary would check on this matter with the Men's Group at FUMER. (Subsequently Gary Vittoz did make the contact, and the FUMER Men's group will provide the snacks.)

Dee noted that we do not yet have a complete list of the participating mentors. That list is urgently needed and contact will be made with Roger Nelson to obtain a copy of the list from his files.

There was discussion concerning the usage of the church library for meetings. The church does not charge for usage, but does request that non-church groups make a donation to help with utility costs and general operational expenses. It was agreed that we should make a contribution, the amount to be determined at a later date. Ed McRee will check with the church to see what rates are being suggested before we determine the amount that ASSETS will donate.

On April 17th, the Chamber of Commerce dinner will be held at the English Inn, and at that time, ASSETS will award its' Youth Community Service Award to a high school student. The student was recommended by Jennifre Grivins the Chemistry and Environmental Sciences teacher. In a very detailed letter, she enumerated the wide array of service projects this student had been involved with and summarized why she felt the student was most deserving. The Board agreed to give the award to Devan Rostorfer, and Jan McRee will make the presentation at the Chamber dinner.

The fairly arduous road to obtaining a 501 © 3 designation from the Internal Revenue Service will take approximately 4 more weeks to complete. The detail is extensive, and involves obtaining State of Michigan certification as well as the IRS designation. Much of our ability to receive grant funds hinges upon these designations. Until the approvals are granted, non-profit organizations cannot make grants to ASSETS, so there is some urgency to completing the rather complex forms, and having them properly filed with the appropriate agencies.

Gary Vittoz, Treasurer, brought to the Board's attention an existing financial obligation to both SIREN and HEARTS AND HANDS. ASSETS pledged a financial gift to these two organizations from the profits generated from Social Security Scandels held last March. While the earnings did not meet the anticipated expectations, the Board agreed the obligation needed to be paid as it becomes a matter of our organizational integrity to complete the transaction.

Gary noted, as a matter of information that while we do need to fulfill the commitment, he also noted our very meager current bank balance. He also explained that we have the Youth Service Award to pay for, which will cost in the neighborhood of \$ 65.00. That will be an expense we must also make promptly.

A motion was made and seconded to donate \$ 500.00 to SIREN and \$ 200.00 to HEART AND HANDS. The motion was unanimously approved. This leaves a bank balance of approximately \$ 700.00.

There is a city-wide "clean up" day scheduled for the city of Eaton Rapids on Saturday, April 18th. Ron and Mike along with Claudia and Jan will be in attendance, and any other Board member who can come, is urged to do so.

Other subjects for general information included:

- (1) The need for additional Board members. Two or three would greatly increase our abilities to plan and carry out projects.
- (2) Under Dee's leadership the Writing Project will be held in late fall.
- (3) Gary will put "Earth Day" information on our Web Site for April 18th and another in August.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frazier, Recording Secretary.