

ASSET BUILDING IN OUR COMMUNITY Board Minutes for October 14, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Roger Nelson at 4:00 p.m. and those present included: Jan McRee, Mike McGhan, Dee Cassidy, Claudia Brown, Dianne Clone, Mary Frazier, Ed McRee, Barb Crockett, and Karen Abrahamson.

Roger opened the meeting with prayer, focusing on the needs of “kids” in these tough times.

The first item of business was Hobby Rock, scheduled for November 1, 2008. Since the date is only two weeks away, discussion indicated that we were not prepared to orchestrate this endeavor and Dee Cassidy moved that we cancel the November date, and move the date to early spring. The motion was approved.

Items of interest for consideration in planning the Hobby Rock include: “open booths,” or timed demonstrations. Also suggested was an activities table, or a coffee table. It was noted as important, that we mail letters to booth leaders well in advance of the established date, so that we can maximize participation. At least 25 booths are optimal to offer the widest range of interests.

Dee Cassidy announced that Sharron Holszeher was available to introduce the Board to the “Hope” program, which is directed towards specific ages groups of children.

The “Social Security Scandles” performances are scheduled for December 13th and 14th in the high school auditorium from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Karen Abrahamson, and Roger Nelson are part of the group and there are three additional Eaton Rapids residents who are participants. This is a fund raiser for ABC, and there are several items that need attention. They include: printed promotional advertisements in the Community News, and Flashes as well as to local pastors—set up an intermission table—send letters to civic organizations—purchase a roll of tickets. We will also need to make a donation to the custodians at the school. Karen Abrahamson volunteered to make posters announcing the event, obtain the tickets, and Dee Cassidy will ask the Senior Citizens Group to furnish four greeters and a couple of ushers.

It was also noted that on this same date, beginning at 5:00 p.m. the Eaton Rapids Women’s Chorus will give it’s Christmas Concert in the sanctuary of the United Methodist Church. There was some discussion regarding the possibility of calling the day, “A Day with the Arts,” or some other phrase that is memorable and descriptive of the afternoon and evening events.

On September 19th, Dr. DeFrance, the school superintendant met with Roger Nelson and Jan McRee to discuss ABC involvement with the schools. A Resource Room was proposed for location in the Middle School building. The purpose of the center would be to serve as a “support and mentor” for students who need to talk to a “listening ear,” or to discuss problems, family situations, or a multiplicity of matters that might be concerning them. There is a great need for adults to be concerned and to provide volunteers for this program, as staffing will be a major challenge. Prior to next month’s ABC board

meeting, on October 28th the sub-committee will meet one hour before the board, to discuss details concerning the establishment of this program. It is believed a six month trial would be optimal to see if the program is accepted by students and proves useful to the school. Also, it is noted that the sub-committee will be meeting with the school principal where the Resource Center is to be located.

The establishment of a master calendar for ABC was suggested by Claudia Brown. In order to provide a central place for charting dates that are committed, many months in advance for all to consult, the idea of placing it in a file cabinet in the meeting room was discussed. The cabinet idea has been discussed, but not implemented. The file has not been procured, nor has permission been obtained to place the cabinet in the church on a permanent basis. A follow up will be necessary to begin this practice. .

It was announced that the "Strut Your Stuff" run-through will be at 1:00 pm at the high school auditorium on January 10, 2009 with the performance on January 24th, 2009. At 5:00 pm on January 24, access to the choral room will be obtained to prepare for the performance. We need promotion of the event, and Gary Vittoz will be asked to create the applications in November, for early distribution. It was agreed that performers must be in the 4th grade and up, to participate.

ABC has been contacted by Mary Maxey concerning a BPW project to help teens find summer jobs and employment. ABC might be asked to be involved in some way although no requests or commitments are on the table.

Jan reminded the group we still need 3 or 4 additional board members for ABC, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Minnich, Recording Secretary