

Wahkiakum Community Network

Regular Public Board Meeting Agenda

Monday, April 7, 2008, 7:00 PM

River Street Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order by Chairman-interim Chris Holmes at 7:10 PM at the River Street Meeting Room. In attendance were Carrie Kennedy, *Michanne Sealund*, Lisa Ridout, Linda Hartung, Carole Lewis, Tammy Peterson, Lia Sealund, Blair Brady (County Commissioner/guest), Greg Wika (Community member/guest), Adam Pithan (Big Brothers/Big Sisters). A quorum was not present. Lia explained that per the Network by-laws, motions can be made but would require a unanimous vote to pass without a quorum. Introductions were made.

Previous Minutes –

Previous Regular Board Meeting minutes were reviewed; Carole moved to approve; Michanne seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Committee –

Minutes were provided for the Executive Meeting date February 4, 2008.

Guest Input, Public Comment –

Adam Pithan from Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BBBS) gave a presentation about their program and how he feels it can work in conjunction with our local St. James Community Adult to Youth Mentoring Project. Adam explained that the purpose of BBBS in our area is to mentor children whose parents are incarcerated. The program continues with the child if the child and parent are reconnected. Adam explained that he is working closely with Patti Phillips who coordinates St. James Mentoring Program. Lia expressed concern that having two mentoring programs in the community would be competing for the same funds *and* volunteers. Adam explained that to his knowledge this 3-year grant wouldn't be fundraising locally. Their BBBS grant was awarded to the BBBS group in Portland and the grant included SW Washington State. Lia shared the history of St. James Community Adult to Youth Mentoring Project. The CEO of BBBS Columbia Northwest in Portland is Lynn Thompson. Questions: How will you be recruiting and advertising for mentors? Answer: BBBS will be working with Patti Phillips. Question: How can you guarantee that funds are available from the BBBS grant actually comes to Wahkiakum County? Answer: There is no designation per a specific county, just the overall number of matches no matter what county they come from. It is a first come, first served program with four counties being served through this grant including Wahkiakum.

Greg Wika reported that he has seen a big change in Wahkiakum County since he returned here: more poverty, extraction of natural resources, "carpet-baggers" moving in, living wage jobs not available, problems with the bureaucracy/military-complex and social crime. Greg asked what the board thought of creating a Family Theme Park around the theme of the outdoors. Chris suggested that he watch for ads in the Eagle for grant proposals from the Network.

Presentations –

Chris Holmes and Lia Sealund gave a summary of the March 25th Town Hall Meeting, including the attendance and difference in format from the last Town Hall. There were positive comments about the participation.

Carrie Kennedy reported on ideas from Community Organizing Training including incorporating youth into local government by pairing a youth with as specific person to shadow them. Carrie also talked about ways to make meetings (in general) fun and flexible. She will have an activity for our next board meeting. Handouts were made available.

Public Relations Committee –

Carole and Lia will talk with Loren Davis and Nancy Renner about the idea of kids pledging not to drink and drive and not to drive with someone who has been drinking. The Post Community Norms Initiative Phone Survey will be complete this month. Pre-Prom Community Education: Bottle Tagging – will take place the week before the May 3rd prom. At Bald Eagle Days, the Network will have a booth. Discussion about doing one day of wall climbing at Bald Eagle Days as well as making a dedication ceremony of the Pledge Wall during Bald Eagle Days. We are also planning a booth at the Wahkiakum County Fair –Michanne suggested a Mechanical Bull riding booth.

Membership -

Carrie nominated Colleen Theisen to be reappointed as representative of Washington State Children's Administration and Beth Hansen reappointed to represent Youth Serving Organization through St. James Family Center. Michanne seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Administrative –

Lia presented a letter developed by Wahkiakum School District to be sent home to parents to get permission for the students to participate in the Chamber of Commerce fundraiser Crab and Oyster Feed, in which alcohol is served. Several board members expressed that the letter was appreciated but biased and insufficient as a contribution to reducing underage drinking by allowing students (despite their parental approval) to attend an event where alcohol is served. Lia recommended that if the board wishes to meet with the school district, they have to be cohesive in their presentation. Lia suggested she draft a letter to the school district and present it as an option to the board to sign it individually, rather than as a full board. Chris suggested that the board members have the option to take it back to their work to gather additional signatures as a way to comply with Bob Garret's comment that if the "community" were to present this to the school board, they would comply with the request. Lia will e-mail out the draft letter for review and bring it to the next board meeting.

Lia reported that the Network's 2008 Drug Free Community Grant application has been submitted on time; the application is available electronically for those that wish to obtain a copy.

Tammy reported that she plans to begin attending the Chamber of Commerce board meetings to represent the Network. Tammy discussed ideas that are being considered for college scholarships for youth who become actively a part of Network. Tentatively: four \$1000 scholarships will be made available to Wahkiakum County students for continuing their education. There was a discussion about the criteria and expectations. Tammy will present more information at the next board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9: 30 PM

Minutes submitted by Carole O. Lewis, Secretary