

MINUTES OF SECOND MEETING OF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
MERCY HOUSE OF SARATOGA, INC.

The second meeting of the Board of Directors of Mercy House was held on the day and at the place set forth as follows:

Time: 7:00 pm

Date: March 4, 2019

Place: Church Undercroft, 26 Washington Street, Saratoga Springs, New York 12866

Present: Gordon Boyd, Laura Bradigan, Mark Claverie, Mark Griffin, Doug Huston, Howard Nelson, Mary Sanders Shartle, Mary Withington

Chair: Gordon Boyd, President, chaired the meeting and convened it just after 7:00 pm

MINUTES

On motion by Howard Nelson to accept the minutes, seconded by Mary Withington, and adopted by unanimous vote.

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the January 14, 2019 meeting of board of directors are hereby approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Partnerships: (BEST, TSA, Wellspring, Veterans, In Our Name)

- In an effort to solidify relationships with the above organizations, items such as gift cards have been collected from parishioners for distribution in a good will effort.
- BEST will be celebrating their 30th anniversary this racing season and would welcome Mercy House to be a sponsor, giving both BEST and Mercy House public visibility. The event will be July 22nd or 23rd, either at the north side Top of the Stretch restaurant or the new enclosed club house area south of the Turf Terrace . Backstretch workers will be

invited to attend. Mercy House will add our contact list suggesting a ticket price suitable to a broad spectrum of local supporters. BEST is enthusiastic that the backstretch workers will be able to connect with more people in the community.

- Terry Diggory, head of the social concerns committee at the Presbyterian Church and also the head of the Immigration Coalition, is looking for ways to support BEST. The coalition has sent BEST a check, and Terry is involved in the planning for the July event.
- In further partnership efforts, discussions have been held with CAPTAIN and the Saratoga North Country Housing Alliance, which represents 38 agencies over four counties for homeless or at-risk people with disabilities or lack of income.

Community Development Block Grant

- Our proposal has been submitted, preparing the way for and simplifying other possible grant opportunities.
- Calendar dates for scheduled meetings, hearings and votes were listed on the meeting agenda.
- Suggestion made that bricks and mortar are much likelier to get funding, especially with co-funding.

New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association has made a pledge of \$25,000 to BEST. This money will come through BEST to Mercy House.

Loan from Bethesda Endowment

- The \$30,000 approved loan was more than requested.
- Zero percent interest, payable when we begin to collect rents.

- Proposed budget (handout) is close to what we saw at the last meeting. Strict financial accountability and transparency continues with parish bookkeeper, Elaine Leech, and the Endowment Committee.

On a motion made by Doug Huston to approve the preliminary budget and the accompanying financial control policy, and seconded by Mark Claverie, and by unanimous vote:

RESOLVED, that the preliminary budget and accompanying financial control policy be hereby approved.

- Opening the bank account with Saratoga National will need signatories: Gordon Boyd, president; Mary Withington, vice president, Mark Claverie, treasurer; and Mary Sanders Shartle, secretary.

Tax Exempt Application - No word back yet.

NEW BUSINESS

Department of Social Services Letter of Intent - Tina Potter, Saratoga County Commissioner of Social Services, met with Gordon Boyd to discuss Mercy House as a resource for urgent or emergency housing. The average cost currently paid by the county is \$28 per person per night, (below our stated threshold). (Code Blue was offered \$40 by Mercy House).

- DSS has about 20-50 people that require that sort of housing.
- Transitional Services Association (TSA) has additional 15-20 people staying in motels for about \$200-250 a week, which is close to the number that Mercy House would want.
- A Letter of Intent has been drafted to take back to DSS offering \$35.
- The architect will re-sketch the fourth floor to accommodate about 40 people at \$30+.

Public Relations plan Howard Nelson has drafted an outline of goals, primary messages, audiences, announcement activities and timing, other PR and events, and fundraising. A fact sheet was handed out.

- Announcing Mercy House to the press was deferred until Code Blue responded, and we are now waiting for Darren Miller, Senior Warden, to return to town from extended security training 3/17.
- EOC Interagency Awareness Day on April 3rd at the Gideon Putnam is a trade show of all the social service agencies. Ticket: \$75 Gordon to call Joanne to request a table.
- Before making a formal announcement to the press, we also need to determine if we can secure the participation of County DSS, since they have the primary responsibility for housing the homeless.
- The draft letter of intent indicates that DSS will use Mercy House as a preferred location. Beneficial especially for women with children and because of our location and on-site programs through the church.

Suggestions for involving community leaders?

- Conversations needed with significant people in the next 2-3 weeks, so they're not surprised.
- At the press event, we can invite the other clergy and other agencies such as Franklin Community Center, Salvation Army, Saratoga Hospital, Shelters of Saratoga.
- Others: Paul Tonko (his staff is keeping track of the IRS app for 501c3 status); Todd Shimkus; Joe Mastrianni, Dan Fortier (sp?) (Embassy Suites), UPH Kathleen Fife(sp?); Toby Milde, from the Adelphi; others in the local faith community were talked to last fall. HUD, who has an authorized planning group doing a point-in-time survey in a four-

county (Saratoga, Warren, Washington, Hamilton) area a census of the number of homeless (several hundred between Saratoga and Glens Falls alone). Mercy House represents a significant new resource to those agencies.

Other grant opportunities:

- NYS Grants Gateway - Carrie Woerner's office is helping us on which state funding agencies we should be approaching.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion duly made by Mary Withington, seconded by Howard Nelson, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned, 8:10 p.m.

Dated: March 4, 2019

Next meeting, May 4th, 2019 (MSS will not be able to be there. Will need to appoint a substitute secretary.)

Mary Sanders Shartle, Secretary