

Thrive Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2019

Attendance:

Steve Krest, Pat Rustad, Gloria Kaasch-Buerger, Mark Swanson, Ilona Hruska, Mike Rustad, Jenny Hill

Meeting was held at Pat's house 5:00 PM

Minutes from November 21st were adopted as written.

Mark gave the treasurers report: outlining errors in reporting and accounting from SJRC&D. There was around \$5800 in our account as of 11/31/19. Mark continues to ask for monthly financial reports (in vain). Asking SJRC&D to separate TERP accounting separate from Thrive. Mariam (SJRC&D) wants to review our MOU (as do we). Mark pointed out it does not mention liability insurance. S.C. members need to review MOU (on drive) and give comments to Mark. SWCOG (and therefor SJRC&D) will be employing the Payroll Department as their accountant in the future. Mark reiterated the need to separate out LPEA grant expenditures. Mark will provide a spreadsheet when he gets one from Carrie. Gloria said she is now getting paid in a timely manner.

Gloria said she and Mark had had a meeting concerning the LPEA grant; making sure the accounting is correctly monitored. Steve got charged \$300 from Weebly to maintain our website. Gloria has put together a budget for the grant expenditures. Ilona asked if we could get an invoice from SJRC&D for the 7% fee they charged us for receiving the grant. The grant must be spent out in six months.

Ilona spoke about "damage control" and how Thrive seems to be losing steam within the community as witnessed by Steve's comments from a restaurant he visited where the employee heard Thrive was "no longer". We need to get out there and promote Thrive!

Gloria has had business cards and rack cards printed but she is waiting for SJRC&D to pay the invoice. This is where we need to get Gloria that debit card. Mark said Carrie is looking into it.

Steve asked about TERP status of employers and Gloria said all that information (who paid, who owes) is on a spreadsheet on the drive.

Gloria mentioned she got a letter from Mo which she would forward to all of us.

Ilona said she would send Jenny Bennet (LPEA) a link to our newsletter.

Fund Raising: Ilona gave a report about Thrive to the Basic Needs Committee at the UU. She has reserved the DAC for next year for an Academy Awards fundraiser. Given the cost of renting that venue we are looking for an alternative location. (Science Center, Recreation

Center, Library ??) How about a dance e.g. American Bandstand? Ilona said the Rec Center is inexpensive, we just need more ideas for a fund raiser. Something that's Fun, not just another auction. Steve will follow up with SKA to see when our "Token Tuesday" is so we can promote it. Pat suggested we check in with the Rochester Hotel to see if we can benefit in their secret garden series. Ilona mentioned the Primis Restaurant gifting non-profits and said she would follow up.

Grant applications was tabled for next meeting. (Community Foundation?)

501c3 discussion was tabled for the next meeting

Gloria reported there are twelve new TERP businesses and thirty eight reapplications as well as a couple brand new applications. She is planning on hitting the streets hard in February with applications due in March.

Sponsorship vs Membership. Gloria discussed the idea of a membership to Thrive where members who join would receive discounts at TERP businesses. Celebrate with membership party's to incentivize participation. Gloria also spoke about getting sponsors to sponsor a business to become a living wage employer. A person could pay for the application fee for an aspiring business. Gloria said she would work on a sponsorship application. Also Gloria has been talking to businesses about becoming Steering Committee members.

Discussion moved to aspiring TERP employers, and what constitutes aspiring and what does a business get by aspiring. Steve pointed out that Thrive at one time had an agreement with Region 9 ED to provide a number of hours of training. Ilona suggested this would be a good topic for a Coalition meeting, i.e. how TERP works and how aspiring can benefit their business with the help of Region 9. Maybe a Region 9 representative could make a presentation. Gloria will follow up with Region 9 about our relationship with them and check in with Mo for any history on that.

Gloria wants to schedule volunteer (us) canvassing in February hitting both new business and old who have not renewed. Ilona suggested we get buttons made THRIVE! Living Wage

Certificate Window Stickers was tabled until next meeting.

The Coalition meeting is scheduled for January 13th as the 20th is MLK day. Gloria said she has already posted an agenda on the web site. It would be nice to have a Living Wage worker come and speak to their experience. (A manager at Grassburgers) Lots of businesses to ask if they have an employee who might come in. Gloria will follow up. Steve and Gloria will work together on getting a presentation (Region 9) Ilona will get it on the KSUT calendar.

Pat and Mike were recognized and thanked for all of their many years of work with Thrive! We would love to have presented them with a solid gold placard in recognition of their work, but it was with smiles and a warm heart. Thanks again Mike and Pat!

