

City of Stoughton
Minutes of the Food Pantry Committee

Date/Time: June 16, 2016
Location: Hall of Fame Room
Members: Judy Olson, Mike Heger, Carol Kastle
Sandy Fleming (arrived at 1:50 p.m.)
Also present: Deb Blaney, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER:

Mike Heger called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Communications

Deputy Clerk Blaney and Mike Heger stated they would not be here for the July 21st pantry meeting. The meeting for July will be cancelled. It was brought up that it isn't necessary to meet every month unless needed. Mike motioned that meetings be held every other month. Seconded by Carol. All in favor. The next meeting will be held on August 18th, 2016.

On behalf of the Food Pantry Board and the Mayor, we would like to say thank you to Rita Johnson for all she has done for the Postal Worker Food Drive. That drive brought in 9200 pounds of food. Rita did a great job organizing the volunteers and arranged for Conway Trucking to help out by bringing in a trailer to use. She also provided baked goods for the volunteers. Thank you Rita, you did a wonderful job.

Approve minutes of 4-21-2016

Judy motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mike. All in favor.

Review financial reports through May 2016

Discussion on balance of \$100,000. Donations were very generous at the end of 2015. Mike also state that Aldis orders are not as expensive as they used to be because the pantry receives more free items from CAC.

Discussion on ways to improve the pantry-healthier foods

With the balance being what it is, Mike would like to see the pantry increase the quantity of healthier foods, such as apples, oranges, carrots, potatoes. Discussion on where there would be storage for these additional items. Things could be rearranged in the refrigerators. Wally Wurtzler had brought in bulk potatoes for the pantry. Mike will call Aldis, Pick N Save and Woodmans to inquire about buying bulk apples, oranges, potatoes, carrots. The Pantry is exploring the possibility of carrying these healthy foods.

Discussion on new board members

No volunteers were interested in becoming a board member. At the last meeting, Mike had said he would contact Jim Alonzo to see if he would be interested in becoming a board member. Jim said he would not be able to be a board member due to his schedule. Any ideas? Volunteers have been working hard and its hard to commit to b a board member. Sandy thought of asking her Pastor, Good Shepherd By the Lake, to see if he is interested.

Discussion on closing for inclement weather

Pull up minutes from last years conversation regarding this. Committee would like to know what happens if whoever is volunteering for that day, calls and says they cant come to work due to the weather, who covers? The committees reasoning for being closed is as follows: they are volunteers and not getting paid to do this. They feel the pantry is open enough without being open on a snow day. Volunteers are elderly, they don't or cant drive in inclement weather. They feel this is not fair to the volunteers. Clients are coming in because they have made appointments. The Deputy Clerk will take these concerns to Mayor Olson as they are asking to be the exception of being open when the City is.

Discussion regarding clients asking for moeny

Discussion on how to handle clients who ask for money. Recently, a volunteer had this happen. The volunteer handled the situation as he was supposed to. Offered other options to that client. He did not give money. No volunteer ever should, personal or pantry money. Inform them of all the options they have in the community to help them. They client was in no way rude or disrespectful. Great job done by the volunteer in handling it.

Discussion regarding number of visits to panty in the summer

Mayor Olson has asked the committee to look into changing the number of visits during the summer for families with kids at home. Now that school is out, kids are home for breakfast and lunch whereas they were getting that at school before. With the funds being as they are, the committee has decided that during the summer months, families with school age children (ages 6-18) are allowed extra of the following items: cereal, milk (not the bag milk), peanut butter and jelly and bread. This will go on through the summer months and end when school starts. Mike will email the volunteers with this info and also post at the pantry. Motioned by Carol, seconded by Mike. All in Favor.

Adjournment

Mike motioned to adjourn at 2:35 p.m., seconded by Carol.