

City of Stoughton
Minutes of the Food Pantry Committee

Date/Time: August 17, 2017
Location: Ed Overland Room
Members: Mike Heger, Judy Olson, Sandy Fleming, Karol Castle
Absent: Amy Winters
Guests: None
Staff: Kelli Krcma, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER:

Mike Heger called the meeting to order at 2:20pm.

Approval of 6-22-17 minutes

Sandy made a motion to approve the minutes of the 6-22-17 meeting as written. Karol seconded the motion. All in favor, motion approved.

Review of financial information

The food pantry continues to remain financially secure.

Review of Pantry visits

Members of the Food Pantry committee have toured 4 area food pantries: Verona – Badger Prairie, St. Vinny's, Sun Prairie and River. Sandy and Mike shared their observations. All the food pantries that were toured receive food from Second Harvest. Some things that were noted at other pantries:

- Walk ins welcome – no appointments made
- More volunteers than Stoughton
- Clients can come in more frequently
- Use of a point system
- Networking with local businesses (grocery stores, bakeries, gas stations) to get leftover food

The committee would like to explore the possibility of using Second Harvest because of several benefits. They offer delivery, produce/baked goods are free, canned goods and meat are lower prices than what we are paying now.

The tours also prompted discussion on making changes at the Food Pantry. There was talk of using a point system as well, such as assigning point values to meat and giving points to families based on size. Mike said that the Food Pantry can offer much more than what is currently given out. He would like to see increase in giving out milk, butter/margarine, and yogurt – especially with Aldi's prices compared to Pick N Save. The suggestion was made to allow bi-monthly visits, or offer evening and Saturday hours. The concern is would we have enough volunteers to staff additional hours? We could survey the clients and see if they would like/use evening hours.

Discussion of advantages and disadvantages of possibly 501c3 to access grants and Second Harvest

The main advantage to separating from the City and obtaining own 501c3 status is to access Second Harvest. It is worth looking at what the process might be. Mike asked Kelli to set up a meeting with members of the Food Pantry committee, the Mayor and the Finance Director. Some disadvantages to separation from the City:

- Loss of stability and security from the City
- Possible loss of location/utilities, depending on future City leadership
- Loss of financial management
- Increase in costs

Discussion of ways to improve quality and healthfulness of purchases

Healthy, low cost yogurt found at Aldi's. Discussion on possible purchase of refrigerator or freezer for stocking of more items. Karol presented some pricing from Quams. Whirlpool refrigerator, 18 cubic feet, \$789.00. Whirlpool freezer, 20 cubic feet, \$799.00. An additional discount may be available as well. Wayne may also be able to provide a free freezer per grants he receives. Cummins & Jim Alonzo may also be able to help.

Discussion of impact of new Aldi's Store in Stoughton

The new store will allow us to make purchases in town rather than at the warehouse, which requires a minimum size order. It will also make the shopping easier and more accessible, especially if the pantry runs out of things.

Presentation of the Food Pantry services at Senior Center in fall in conjunction with the SC and a nutritionist

Folks from the Senior Center toured the Food Pantry. They will be having a program in the fall with a nutritionist and would like representatives from the Food Pantry to come and talk about services and opportunities offered. We could get volunteers to help set up, and provide information and statistics.

Miscellaneous

The Stoughton Farmers market delivered 4-5 bag of produce. Jane will collect any donated food from vendors on Friday afternoons, and Sandy will be the contact person for this.

It was suggested that someone talk to Pick N Save about extra food they could donate from their deli like meat and cheese. Also talk to Kwik Trip, Co-op, and Cheesers about surplus food they could donate. Sandy will create a list of businesses to visit and a letter to accompany the visits. Mike offered to make the visits with her.

Discussion and possible action regarding the dissolution of the Holiday Fund

Kelli reported to the Committee on an email from Mayor Olson. The Holiday Fund officially disbanded in 2016 and will be dividing up its remaining funds to three different groups, the Food Pantry being one of them. The Mayor asked the Food Pantry committee to consider filling the void left by the dissolution of the Holiday Fund. Kelli also reported on a discussion had with Cindy McGlynn about the Holiday Fund. Cindy wanted to clarify that all she wanted from the Food Pantry was to accept the money and use as needed. She does not expect the Food Pantry to take over the Holiday Fund. Cindy explained that the Holiday Fund disbanded because it was no longer fulfilling its original intent. It was decided to continue what the Pantry usually does at the holidays, providing the vouchers at Thanksgiving and to consider doing something similar in December.

Adjournment

Sandy moved to adjourn the meeting, Mike seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.