

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Shawn Killian called the meeting to order at 6:12pm.

The following members were present: Kallie Haas, Ken Rochau, Paul Cathey, Trish Romza, and Shawn Killian,

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Kallie motioned to approve September 2016, October 2016, November 2016 and December 2016 meeting minutes. Paul seconded the motion.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

Trish shared the end of 2016 financial numbers and the January 2017 report. The board is beginning the new year with a balanced budget and about \$13, 677.76 of funds to provide as scholarships for 2017. In 2016, 134 children utilized scholarship funding; 72 families utilized scholarship funding. Over \$8,000.00 was awarded in 2016; \$6441.93 of the scholarship awards were redeemed. The treasurer would like to use some of the board's funds to purchase office supplies (binders, folders, etc.) in order to maintain accurate records of the scholarship applications. The board approved these items. It was also noted that there was \$0.00 redeemed for the volunteer efforts at The Chase to the Taste in summer 2016. Hopefully the event will provide revenue in 2017.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Scholarship Update: Trish shared that one scholarship was redeemed at the end of December 2016. No scholarship applications have been submitted yet for January 2017.
- B. Website and Social Media Update: Taija was not present at the meeting, therefore no update on the website were available. Kallie has not posted in the Facebook page in a number of months.
- C. Goals for 2017: The Board reviewed the goals and discussed ways to meet all three goals. One idea was to approve the Spring Soccer scholarships and have our logo printed on the soccer jerseys. Another idea that was discussed in previous months was to post volunteer opportunities on volunteer websites, like Volunteer.com. The scholarship applications and informational fliers are not posted in the public library, so those need to be replenished regularly. Kallie suggested creating a new year newsletter to be shared with all volunteers, sponsors and donors from 2016.

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- D. Spring Soccer: The board approved the motion to provide registration discounts for the park district's spring soccer program.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. District 62 ESL Meeting: Kallie shared the information from the meeting at District 62 ESL Department. She was supposed to meet with the director, Milagros Bravo, but Ms. Bravo never showed up for the meeting, so she shared the DPFOTP information with Florentina Marchisotto, Ms. Bravo's secretary, and the D62 Spanish interpreter. Both Ms. Marchisotto and the interpreter were extremely supportive of the efforts of the Friends, and were hopeful to collaborate. They both noted that in their experience, the parents of children receiving free and reduced meals or ESL services were very helpful and wanted to support D62 in anyway possible. Ms. Marchisotto explained there are monthly Parent-Advisory-Council (PAC) Nights offered for D62 parents, and thought that it would be a great idea if the DP Friends could present their information and scholarship applications to their parents. There will be PAC Nights on February 2, 2017 and March 2, 2017. They also shared with Kallie that there are not many programs available for the middle school aged girls. They thought that offering an after school Zumba class would be very successful. The board felt this would be a great way to support the recreational needs of DP youth, as well as a way to keep them off the streets. Kallie will contact the ESL department again to set up another meeting in order to collaborate on these ideas.
- B. Board Position Open: The board will discuss filling Kristina Haas' board position if she is not able/not willing to continue with the duties. She has requested to be removed from the scholarship application review committee.
- C. Patrick Lives On.....: The board will wait for Patricia Fontain to contact again.
- D. GITD17 Letters: The board agreed it would be a good idea to begin sending out sponsorship and silent auction request letters now. Shawn felt it best to wait a few more months to begin requests for food donations. The board also discussed ways to receive "higher value" donations for the silent auction. Some of the golf items donated were not bid on, nor redeemed due to the locations being a distance too far from Des Plaines.
- E. Other Fundraising Ideas: The board discussed doing a restaurant night but felt this kind of fundraiser did not bring in much money. The board reviewed Josh Cantres' idea of hosting a floor hockey tournament, but felt there wasn't enough interest by the DP youth to put the effort into planning and hosting it. Another idea was to

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contact the Des Plaines Youth Commission to see about working together on something, as well as gaining more student volunteers.

- F. Easter Egg-stravaganza 2017: The board needs to contact Cindy Yelich to request the face painting tables be in the same room as the popcorn machine.

- E. **Next Meeting:** Monday, February 6th, 2017 at the ALC

Items to be discussed- Easter Egg-stravaganza details, review D62 meeting and February PAC Night, website, GITD17 Flyer approval, GITD17 letters, discuss charging for the fishing derby