Meeting Notes 1/13/25

Absent: Amy Jones, Jill Griffith, & Julia Reynolds

Call to Order: 7:07

Treasurer's Report:

- Move of fiscal year almost complete
- We are up 135K over last year; 81K of that is JCCF grant.
- Community Care Center balance moved to unrestricted fund
- 81K will be moved to Raymond James to invest
- Begin thinking about investment plans for endowment
- By-laws state external audit should occur every five years. Consider deferring outside audit at Compass Pointe's advice. Will need a vote; consult with Amy Jones prior to vote.
- Need to begin a finance committee among the board; volunteers/those interested should let Joe know.
- Motion to approve the treasurer's report: Jen Whitson; Second: Dawn Arnold.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes had been previously sent out. Motion to approve: Shawn Bauer; Second: Megan Zaborowsky

Monthly Icebreaker:

- Tiffany briefly reviewed "friend-raising" and what that looks like - it is about the ask, not the end result. She asked each board member to write 2 goals for themselves related to GEF. Goals were sealed in an envelope and self-addressed. These will be mailed to board members at the end of 2025.

Special Events:

- Bags & Bottles Bingo Update - taking inventory of what they have - looks like there is enough bourbon but still need a few purses. Application for gaming license has been submitted. Promotional materials are done. Invites/sponsorship flyers will be distributed to the board for them to utilize. Cash and check only for payment. Payment due by 2/5/25.

GEF Cares:

- 300 coats total were distributed. 145 of the 300 were distributed from the bus during visits to the schools after the event.
- 11/12/25 tentative date for next year's event, working with GMS to confirm
- 2nd semester supply drive coming up. Cares team will utilize the board room at the ad building to consolidate the supplies, take inventory and load the bus for drop offs. Cares will also survey schools to see what is needed at this time.

Monte Carlo:

- All hands on deck to secure silent auction and raffle items. This is a whole board responsibility. Please update the Google sheet accordingly with board member name, status (requested, confirmed, etc..), item, and value.
- We have secured 9 new sponsors this year; two of which are staff members.
- We are just shy of 70K in sponsorship pledges and individual ticket sales. This is an increase of about 10K over last year.
- Committee members are attending a tasting at Crane Bay on 1/14/25 to narrow down meal selection.
- Board members are asked to bring two bottles of alcohol (not beer or wine) to February board meeting as a contribution. These bottles cannot come into the admin building; Dawn will be outside in her car collecting them prior to the meeting.
- Board was reminded that the expectation is to be at Crane Bay to set up for the event as well as in attendance for the event.

Grants: no report

Scholarships:

- Scholarship committee to vote on Donna Jones Service Award this evening, after the meeting.
- Kite Family Scholarship: Bert Kite and siblings have contributed 20K to start a scholarship fund - one for college bound students and one for a trade school bound student each year.
- Dennis Parrish and Larry Holder have approached GEF about starting a scholarship in honor of Bob Whitson, their former wrestling coach. Peter will be meeting with them in the coming days to discuss details.

Old Business:

- Pacer Fundraiser for the spring, in partnership with school PTO's, is underway. Participation is expected to be lower due to the game being during spring break.
- Alumni Basketball Game - Saturday, 2/1. Greek's Pizza donated or discounting the pizzas. Olive Garden is donating 15 jumbo salads, 4 gallons of soup, and 300 breadsticks for the dinner. Please share on social media - people need to commit and register - not just show up day of. Will need a few volunteers to greet and help clean up; also to pick up Olive Garden.
- Any board members that are rolling off, please notify Joe.
- Be thinking of prospective new board members to bring on.

New Business:

- Rock the Block - 4/26 this year. Required meeting on 1/27/25 - Michael will attend. We will need the required 5 volunteers for the event. We will also need 12 runners to commit up front. This is the day after prom, so it is less likely that we will get high school teams to participate.

- Donut Dash w/Teachers' Treasures is on 3/22/25 - currently, only teachers in Marion County can shop. Runners/teachers that register ($35 fee), outside the county (either sleep in option or actual runner/walker) can shop 2x and spend up to $500 each visit. Board discussed sponsoring teachers to participate so they have the opportunity to shop. A number of three teachers per building was mentioned. Registration deadline is 3/20/25. If any board member thinks they know a sponsor that would be interested, touch base with Tiffany.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:17: Dawn Arnold; Second: Shawn Bauer

Minutes Submitted by M. Zaborowsky

Electronic Vote Acknowledgements:

1) January 28, 2025 - Email Motion by Julia R. on behalf of Cares Team for a Helping Hands request - asking board approval for $250 for a Southwest student's family who is facing challenges juggling necessities as one of their children is in Riley being treated for an aggressive form of cancer. Funds would be used for food and gas expenses due to hospital travel.
    a. Email yays – Julia, David, Joe, Angie, Jen, Phil, Megan, Mark, Chloe, Mike, Shawn, Amy, Peter, Dawn, Tracie
    b. Majority vote, **approved**
2) January 30, 2025 – Email Motion by Julia R. on behalf of Cares Team for a Helping Hands request – asking board approval for $600 for a Westwood student's family who is facing challenges as the result of their 3rd grader's cancer diagnosis; funds are for additional gas and food expenses.
    a. Email yays – Joe, Julia, Jen, Megan, Phil, Amy, Dawn, Mike, Shawn, Angie, Tracie, Mark, David, Peter
    b. Majority vote, **approved**

Email Vote Information submitted by A. Jones