



HOPE 4 Youth Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, July 22, 2024

Time: 5:00 pm | Connexus Energy or Zoom

Board Members Present: Steve Nash, Linda Barnum, Don Phillips, JJ Slag, Anna VonRueden, Julie Cole, Krista Benjamin, James Lyght, Pat Chen, Brad Konik, Paul Moore

Board Members/Staff Absent: Brad Wise, Liz Cook, Sue Woodard, Mark McNamer

Staff and Guests Present: LaChelle Williams, Nikki Kalvin, Brooke Limanen, Breanne Patton, Rob Davis (Connexus Energy), Rick Tisdale (Cedar Creek Energy)

Minutes

Connexus Energy Tour Debrief

- Rob Davis welcomed the board to the Connexus Energy Solar Field. Rick Tisdale from Cedar Creek Energy presented on the different types of solar panels and discussed the financial costs of purchasing solar panels.
- Anna commented on the career opportunities that could be made visible to youth if HOPE 4 Youth invested in solar panels.
- Don pointed out the opportunity to fundraise and collaborate with partners to help with the cost of solar panels.
- LaChelle asked if anyone on the Board was opposed to solar panels. There were no Board Members unopposed.
- There was discussion around the risk of the power going out. Krista reassured the Board that the facility would still be connected to the grid and could operate on a generator in case of an emergency.
- Anna asked whether there were other energy saving opportunities for HOPE 4 Youth. Krista shared that the organization could participate in an energy audit to improve energy efficiency and reduce consumption.

Call to Order

- The formal meeting was called to order at 5:45 pm by Anna VonRueden.

Mission Moment (James Lyght)

- James shared a youth story which highlighted how HOPE 4 Youth support and connects parenting youth with helpful resources.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- **Motion** made by Linda Barnum, seconded by Steve Nash and passed unanimously to approve the agenda and May 20, 2024 minutes.
- **Motion** made by Krista Benjamin, seconded by Julie Cole, and passed unanimously to confirm the July 22, 2024 agenda.

Board Executive Committee Update (Anna VonRueden)

- Last week Monday, July 15, 2024, was the Steven Cade event. Steven is a Nashville based country music artist and songwriter. Steven put on a concert and presented HOPE 4 Youth with a guitar for the youth to use. The donation was made through Steven's organization Giving Guitars.
- The date of the Annual Board Meeting has been switched to December 2, 2024.
- Anna pointed out there were around 80 attendees at the Refuge Golf Club event that was hosted on July 16, 2024. HOPE 4 Youth was present at the event.
- MN Twins tickets are still available for August dates. The September date has a waitlist.

- HOPE 4 Youth is continuing the search for a new facility for the HOPE 4 Youth Center in Anoka.
- Board Members can purchase branded HOPE 4 Youth merchandise via the online storefront. The link to the online store can be found in the last ED update.

Operational and Building Update (LaChelle Williams)

- **Board Communication Tool**
 - Everything now lives in the portal. Each May, we will archive the previous year, saving all documents. Reach out to Breanne for assistance with logging into the portal.
- **Operational Snapshot**
 - Goal 1: all on track. July HOPE Place is filled. We finalized and compiled our 6-month internal youth survey results. We are seeing improvements in educational goals, fewer encounters with the legal system are up to 86%, and mental health is up to 81% youth sharing success. All other goal areas are tracking similar to last year.
 - Goal 2: all on track with focus on balancing categories for strong year end.
 - Goal 3: all on track. Mandated Reporting training completed with all staff by August 2nd, Risk Management Plan on track with mitigation phase to start in August.
 - Goal 4: continuing to focus on Fridley and now exploring Blaine.
- **New Facility Progress**
 - Touring sites: we brought our Building and Executive Committees to 8090 Rancher Road in Fridley.
 - Working with City of Fridley, Area Commissioner, Economic Development Partners – we have a new best friend - the Foundation Director at Connexus Energy and Economic Development Guru, and many others.
 - Steps once location is determined:
 - Listening sessions
 - Obtain city recommendation, move to Planning Commission/Committee
 - Obtain Planning Commission/Committee recommendation, move to City Council for approval
- **Philanthropic and Marketing Naming Plan**
 - We are developing a fundraising plan – our Philanthropic and Marketing Naming campaign. We will have naming opportunities to support any gap funding issues as we identify our next home. We have our first room named: the Lynn J. Parrott Donation Center. HOPE 4 Youth received a \$100,000 legacy gift from the Lynn J. Parrott Estate.

Financial Report (Brooke Limanen/Don Phillips)

- Brooke pointed out in May that HOPE 4 Youth received a \$100,000 donation from the Lynn J. Parrott Estate. The donation was added to the building fund line of financials and will transfer to the building campaign budget.
- In June, there was an increase in Individual and Civic/Faith donations due to the Summer Kick-Off Campaign.
- The Ramsey Lions Club donated \$10,000 as a match for the Summer Kick-Off Campaign.
- HOPE 4 Youth has a 8.8 month cash on-hand; financially the organization is healthy.
- Don noted an increase in donations from grants to assist with housing and rent needs through our Anoka County Grants.
- Don mentioned the need for clothing and food and wonders how we keep food on the shelves while being cost effective. We need to budget accordingly. Strategies are in place currently and will evolve as we transition to a larger facility.
- LaChelle pointed to the 85% of funds focused on programs.

Advancement Update (Nikki Kalvin/JJ Slag)

- Nikki compared statistics from June 2024 to 2023:
 - 42% increase in volunteer hours
 - 142% increase in food donations
 - 100% increase in speaking engagements
 - 89% increase in donations
- The Advancement Team discussed adding another volunteer role. The volunteer role would assist with childcare while the parenting youth shops, etc.
- Nikki shared that an average of 3000 lbs of food goes out the door from the HOPE 4 Youth Center.
- We have raised over \$9,000 from the Summer Kick-Off Campaign, which is close to the \$10,000 match made by the Ramsey Lions Club.

- The Summer Kick-Off Campaign will continue through August.
- The Advancement Team will evaluate what community events worked and where we are making a difference.
- Jason from Kare 11 will attend the Darkest Night 4K event, barring any scheduling conflicts due to the presidential campaign.
- The Darkest Night 4K event will take place on October 4th. Save the date! The team is reaching out to sponsors. Ham Lake Lions Club has committed to a sponsorship.
- JJ asked what our fundraising goal is for the Darkest Night 4K. Nikki shared the net goal is \$45,000.
- Julie was curious how to participate at the Darkest Night 4K.
- JJ asked how much money HOPE 4 Youth is generating from hosting events. He doesn't want the organization prioritizing managing events over forming and maintaining quality partnerships. JJ congratulated the team for currently doing both.

Open Business (Anna VonRueden)

- None

Adjourn

- **Motion** to adjourn was made by Don Phillips, seconded by Steve Nash, and approved unanimously.

The meeting ended at 6:47pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Breanne Patton, Administrative Coordinator

Action Items:

- Review the Board Portal
- Save the Date for the Darkest Night 4K

Upcoming Events:

- [Hunt 4 HOPE on September 20, 2024](#)
- [The Darkest Night 4K on October 4, 2024](#)
- [Clays 4 Youth on October 22, 2024](#)
- [Out of the Cold on November 21, 2024](#)