

Board Meeting – January 12, 2022

Attending by Internet or Phone: Board Members Cary Booth, Dinah Davidson, David Newton, Carolyn Nordstrom, Victor Shawe and Alice Wakefield; Active Members Bonnie Bowen, Michele Lanan, and Linda Wadsworth; Community Members Bob Downs, Harold Farmer and Barbara Miller

A. Call to Order

President Cary Booth called the meeting to order at 06:17.

B. Adoption of Agenda

Cary moved to add the opportunity for community input in the form of an open mic (see section I, below). Alice seconded his motion to amend the agenda, and the vote in favor was unanimous.

C. Approval of Minutes from November 16, 2021

Cary moved to approve the minutes with no amendments. David seconded the motion, which passed with one abstention (someone lost from the call).

D. Reports

a. Fire Chief (David Newton)

i. Operations – no operations since our last meeting.

ii. Training

The joint training with Firefighters and EMTs in November was moderately attended. Attendance was okay at the December training.

iii. Vehicles

Brush 5 has a radiator leak. All other vehicles are in service.

iv. Grants

1. We did submit the AFG proposal for nine mobile radios (estimated cost \$20,500) by the deadline, which was subsequently extended until January 21.

2. This month, David will apply for the usual VFA grant for ~ \$800 for wildland fire equipment.

v. David thanked Victor for organizing completion of the outdoor work (weed-eating, etc.) at the station.

b. EMT Chief (Jackie Lewis)

i. Calls

PR has responded to one AZ EMT call (in December) since our last meeting.

ii. Training

Carolyn noted that several good training sessions have been held since the last meeting.

iii. Jackie thanked all for filling in during her absence.

iv. Carolyn noted that Bonnie Bowen has helped immensely with logistics, office organization and evaluation of future EMS needs. Cary echoed the appreciation of Bonnie's contributions.

v. Cary noted that David Whipple said (on 12/14/21) that they have all the necessary paperwork for transfer of the new Rescue 3 but are still waiting approval from the Hidalgo County Commissioners and NMDFA. He says it shouldn't be much longer.

c. Treasurer (Alice Wakefield) Current as of 12 January 2022

i. Assets

1. Washington Federal: the total value of our Washington Federal account (Rainy Day Fund) is \$34,282.11, including \$162.06 interest in December.

2. Edward Jones (all accounts)

3. The total value of our EJ accounts is \$158,862.48. Components of this total are: Money Market (\$54,692.92), 2 new bonds (Citigroup Global and Canadian Imperial Bank @\$15k each), and three CDs (including Muma CD) of 2- or 3-year maturity dates (\$74,045.50).

4. Portal Rescue assets total \$193,230.27, including \$150 in petty cash, \$59.74 in stamps, and all investments. Two outstanding checks total \$237.22.

ii. Revenues and expenses for 2021

1. 2021 end-of-year revenues total \$ \$72,602.61 and expenses came in at \$38,974.73
2. David remarked that PR had not previously invested in bonds and requested a description and the terms of those bonds. Alice indicated that the return of 1% was marginally better than that of the best CDs (0.65%). If a bond were to be called in, it wouldn't mature at the advertised rate, but the original investment would return to us.

iii. Change of tax accountant

1. Alice reported that the FOCC accountant doesn't do taxes, but that the Malpai accountant from Tucson will get back to us.

2. Carolyn noted that Harriet Shultis is using someone in Deming for the Historical Society.

d. Member at Large (Carolyn Nordstrom)

Comments on fundraising (deferred to below)

e. Vice President (Victor Shawe) Nothing to report

f. President (Cary Booth)

i. Chiricahua Community Health Center, Inc. (CCHCI)

1. The delay in start-up is due to a change in management personnel for mobile clinics. The new manager is still getting up to speed.

2. Monday would be the best day – after two days without any local medical clinic, and prior to the Walker Clinic's Tuesday session. (Dinah worried after the meeting about Monday holidays, but visiting doctors seemed okay with Monday in discussions last March.) Wednesdays would also be okay.

E. Continued Business

a. Classroom rental

i. In view of Omicron peaking soon in the County, two community members spoke in opposition to opening the classroom for rental. Two others spoke in favor.

ii. Cary moved to retain the status quo, and Dinah seconded the motion, which passed on a 3:2 vote.

iii. Bonnie Bowen and David will get together for a post-event review of the vaccination clinic, which they oversaw (thank you!) in the classroom.

b. Pickleball

Victor indicated that he is moving forward on the pickleball court at the helipad by purchasing equipment. He will advertise this soon to the entire community.

c. CCHCI (see above)

F. New Business

a. Soups' on

i. Two concerns will (or could) preclude holding this fundraiser as before. County inspectors of our facilities expressed concern about the lack of a hand-washing sink adjacent to the other sinks. County regulations will require that soups be prepared in a commercial kitchen.

ii. Carolyn, David, and Jackie have suggested that we could use one of the New Mexico facilities. Alice will speak with owners of the Chiricahua Museum, and Dinah will confer with Donna Meenach about use of the Rodeo Community Center. Alice suggested that an event there could be scheduled to coincide with the Gallery's Spring Show (April 23-24), so as to bring more residents to both events. She also pointed out that New Mexico has a stringent public health order in effect through February, and that it could be continued.

iii. Barbara Roth has suggested two alternatives to an indoor Soup's On event during Covid. Three or four soups could be made in quantity for each day and frozen, then sold along with breads and desserts as carry out, with tables set up outside. Soup sales could be held in a carnival-like atmosphere or be paired with a Renaissance Fair, which was very successful in the past.

iv. Bonnie Bowen posed the question of whether the current limitations on classroom use were instituted to protect the buildings or the community, and if the latter, whether it was kosher for Portal

Rescue to sponsor any community event in the near future. A (rambling and unproductive) discussion followed and reached no understanding.

v. We can also explore fundraising options outside of Soup's On, but discussion of this was table until a later meeting.

b. Phone book fundraiser (update)

Bonnie Bowen will get to this after the bird count and ordering supplies for EMTs. Thank you again, Bonnie.

c. Final approval of 2022 budget

i. Cary asked if there were any concerns about the budget put together at an earlier meeting. Jackie has reviewed it and thought that the budget for office supplies should be higher to cover fundraising. but we already have a budget category for fundraising. Jackie estimated fundraising costs at \$400 for printing the 10-page letters, postage at \$174 for 300 copies, plus some postage for thank you letters and bill payments.

ii. David thought that we needed to flesh out targets on the income side (specific fundraisers, donations, grants, etc.).

iii. Cary moved to approve the budget as amended after the budget meeting (adding \$4,000 to fundraising [previously zero] and reducing the rainy day draw by the same amount. Alice seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

iv. Our Bylaws require two signatures on many of the checks Alice writes, and Alice would like to change this so she needn't always chase down a second signature. Jackie is okay with a single signature with the present constitution of the Board, but thinks two signatures would represent a better business practice. David noted that an existing clause in our Bylaws permits single signature checks to established vendors and wondered if the Chiefs could be added to the list of established vendors, provided they submit proper documentation. Cary will look into this. Victor and Dinah volunteered to sign checks at Alice's residence.

d. Upcoming board vacancy

i. Carolyn expressed her wish to stand down from the Board, citing the availability of new and valuable Active Members who have much to offer as board members. The Board recognizes and thanks Carolyn for her substantial contributions to Portal Rescue, both on the Board and (especially) as an experienced EMT.

ii. Cary asked David and Carolyn to solicit a volunteer replacement from among firefighters and EMTs. Carolyn has already investigated and had some positive responses, and Cary thanked her for her efforts. Nominations and votes will occur, as usual, at the March Community Meeting.

iii. Active members need to watch out for interests of first responders as their first priorities, and we do not expect them to take on additional projects. He further remarked that community members on the Board DO need to take on additional projects.

G. Scheduling of the March Annual Community Meeting

a. All members of the Portal-Rodeo communities, and especially Active Members, are encourage to attend and vote at the annual meeting, where board members are elected.

b. Pending availability of Jackie and Alice (her call dropped), the Board settled on March 19th at 2 pm, outside (or inside) the ambulance bay.

H. For the Good of the Order

a. Blood drives

i. Tomorrow's blood drive has been cancelled due to unavailability of Red Cross personnel.

ii. The next drive will be Friday, March 18.

I. **Community Open Mic** (no one responded)

J. Adjournment

Cary adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm