



EAST VALLEY COMMUNITY GROUP  
(EVCG)  
Monthly Meeting Minutes, December 6, 2022  
Meeting held via Zoom

Present: Betsy Race, Allison Belisle, Christine Settles, Peggy Whiteneck, Joan Feierabend, Sarah Jolivette, Mark Kelley, Josie Carothers, Marcia Hammond

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Betsy Race at 5:35 PM.
2. Introductions and Celebrations: Many thanks to Josie for her dedicated work on the ARPA application.
3. Changes to the Agenda: Add discussion of sponsoring a child's card in The Herald to new business.
4. Secretary's Report:
  - a. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the November minutes as written was made by Joan Feierabend and seconded by Allison Belisle. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
  - b. Action items - Mark and Josie have discussed the condition of the foundation with the engineer who has already looked at the Hall. Joan and Betsy have finished repainting the snowmen.
5. Treasurer's Report

Allison gave an overview of the Treasurer's report. The outstanding pledges that are listed on the Capital Campaign report were discussed. The general sense of the group is that until we have a clear plan of action for Hall renovations it doesn't make sense to request payment of them. Betsy agreed to reach out to the outstanding pledge holders and if they were willing to wait until a solid plan was in place before resuming payments. A motion to approve the November Treasurer's report was made by Mark Kelley, and seconded by Marcia Hammond. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Committee Updates
  - a. Events Committee: Marcia reported on the plans to update the bicycle wheel snowmen that are placed in front of the Hall on a monthly basis, the others are spread throughout the Village and down Rt 14 and will be updated as the property owners desire. We continue to think about other locations in the Valley that might want one in order to visually connect the Valley and bring a bit of cheer to the darker days of the year. The window boxes at the Hall have been updated with pine boughs and lights for the winter season. Joan reported on the repairs to Hal and Amelia and shared that she's working on their granddaughter and expects to have the whole family ready to go out again in the spring.

b. Public Relations Committee: Josie is working on a piece for the town report which will summarize our activities for the year. She has been focused on the ARPA application so this is not quite complete yet.

## 7. Old Business

a. Foundation Research Update - with consistent monitoring and the limits that we're already aware of - occupancy limits and existing deterioration - there appear to be no emergent items that would prevent us from using the building. Some discussion about the load limits on the floor took place because the current construction only allows 68 people engaged in "fixed seating" activities, which would limit the activities that could take place in the Hall. We agreed that it made sense to include the cost of upgrading the floor in the ARPA application in order to allow for a wider range of uses for the Hall. See attachment for more info.

b. ARPA Update - Josie is working on the application to the Town for ARPA funding. We've settled on a request that should cover ADA upgrades, basement renovations, and floor upgrades. A small group will meet on Friday, Dec 9 to comb through the estimates we've received to help us nail down the exact amount to request.

c. Business Plan for Hall - Betsy has drafted a business plan to present to the Selectboard, using the current operating expenses for the Hall and Fire Department and a range of possible income scenarios based on requests that members of the group have received personally and discussion with a range of community members.

## 8. New Business:

a. Sponsoring a Child's Drawing in The Herald's Holiday Edition - the cost is \$35 per card, EVCG will sponsor at least three cards with gifts being made by Allison Belisle, Betsy Race, Josie Carothers and Mark Kelley to cover the expense.

**Action Items:** Allison will work with The Herald to get the ads placed.

Betsy and Josie will attend the Selectboard meeting on Thursday, Dec 8 to give an update on Business Plan and ARPA application.

Betsy, Josie, and Mark will meet to finalize ARPA request amount.

Betsy and Josie will send money to Allison for the ad.

Josie will submit the ARPA application.

Betsy will reach out to pledge holders to update them on our current holding pattern with the Hall and request an extension on their pledge payments

9. Next meeting: first Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 PM on a motion by Marcia Hammond and seconded by Sarah Jolivette.