St. Johns CARES, Inc.

MINUTES FOR 102nd PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
April 19, 2016
7:01p.m.

Attendees:

Mary Ann Kriwiski – Worthington Park
Linda Gomolka – Southwood
Dianne Battle – Deer Run
Debbie Gomer – River Oaks Plantation
Marzieh Torabian – East Gate
Kristine Solms – Pine Chase
Dan Hubecky – Del Webb Men's Club
Ellen Walden – HHS (County)
Meg Balke – Pine Chase
Sandra Huss – St. Johns Forest
Mary Zimmerman – St. Johns
Keri Kowalchuk – Flora Parke
Shirley Carpenter – Johns Creek
Vivian Williams – Worthington Park
Lynn Buff – Creekside
Gil Ashbridge – Del Webb Men's Club
Charlotte Neudigate – Pine Crossing

1. ***Approval of Minutes from last meeting:*** Motion to approve made by Lillie Nay and 2nd by Shirley Carpenter

2. ***Treasurer's Report:***

   a. Balance carried over from 2014 to 2015 was miscalculated. The balance for January, 2016, should be $16,461.44. The balance for February, 2016, should be $13,688.65.
   b. March 31, 2016 balance = $13,577.72

3. ***New Member Introduction***
   a. Lynne Buff – JCP Creekside
   b. Dan Hubecky – Nocatee Del Webb Men's Club
   c. Gil Ashbridge – Nocatee Del Webb Men's Club
   d. Ellen Walden – St. Johns County Health & Human Services, live in St. Augustine
   e. Sandy Huss – St. Johns Forest

4. ***Meeting Updates***
   a. St. Johns Continuum of Care (CoC) – Cliff – Wednesday 4/13
      Next general membership meeting 5/11 9:00 am
      - Cliff sits on the Board of CoC with Ellen Walden
      - Point in Time Count to be submitted for vote next week. There are a little over 900 homeless (sheltered and unsheltered). 75% are unsheltered. There are about 800 unaccompanied youth.
      - Emergency Solutions funding is coming out next week.
      - Volunteers are needed for scoring of proposals from organizations to get grants to meet the needs of the homeless community.

   b. Integrated Service Team – Meg/Marzieh – March meeting cancelled.
      Next meeting 4/29 9:30 am
      Guest: Ellen Walden, St. Johns County Health & Human Services re: Integrated Services Team (IST) meetings
      - IST gathers organizations that want to give back to the community by helping people and families connect with resources in the community. It gives people a point of contact.
      - St. Johns Cares can do in-kind donations to help fund particular needs, if there is no agency or funding available.

   c. Unaccompanied Youth (homeless students in St. Johns County) – Meg/Charlotte – Monday 5/16/16

- The Homeless Backpacks and Suitcases for Seniors will be presented at the May meeting.

5. ***2015 Initiative Chairs***
   a. Dog Day – Linda Gomolka & Amy Bolick
      - This was the best year ever. 850 people and 350+ dogs attended. In 2015 – 500 people and 250+ dogs attended.
      - We will be giving St. Augustine Humane Society approximately $4000.

   b. Homeless Backpacks – Charlotte Neudigate & Meg Balke
      - Stuffing backpacks at Westminster Woods Auditorium 5/9/16-5/11/16: M&T 9am-5pm; W 12pm-6pm Volunteers do not need to stay the entire time; may volunteer just 1 hour.
        - The Creekside Football Team will be helping on Wednesday. They want to help promote Chip in for Youth. Every player must sell the minimum of 2 tickets. Tickets are $45 and we keep $25. (Go to www.chipinforyouth.com and use STJOHNSCARES as the code).
        - We will co-fundraise and they will get 10%. St. Johns Cares will help support their end-of-year banquet.
        - Homeless Student Backpacks will benefit K-5 this year. There will be no more drop boxes. We will solicit sponsorship and use the Chip in for Youth money as back-up.

   c. Food Drive – Marzieh Torabian & Cliff Honiker – No updates.

   d. Giving Tree – Lillie Nay & Shirley Carpenter
      - There were 4000 tags last year and we will have 5000 tags this year.
      - We need a new space to sort everything on collection week.
      - Trying to get more charities that benefit senior citizens.
      - Ellen Walden suggested Pie in the Sky. They have expanded to a senior program that provides healthy food to seniors and low income people.
      - Westminster Woods wants to provide volunteers. We want to do intergenerational activities that involve kids and seniors.

6. ***Old Business***
   a. Publix Donations – Charlotte Neudigate
      - April 14 – 2 boxes were delivered to the food bank at Celebration Lutheran Church
      - 1 box went to Wildflower Clinic – thermometers and Pull-Ups
      - 1 box of Easter bunnies; 1 box of Christmas cards in storage; 1 box of plastic eggs
      - Approximately $1600 in donations have been received this year from Publix on Race Track Rd.

   b. ASSIST Scholarship recipient
      - There were 6 applicants for the $1000 scholarship for college. Zane Price has been chosen as the recipient. He has a 4.0GPA at the School for the Deaf & Blind.
      - Scholarship will be awarded at the Homeless Student Program end of year banquet.

   c. Hastings Dinners – All dates for 2016 have been filled.
      - Kriss has a new job and will no longer be able to manage the calendar. Email krissolms@gmail.com - **NEED NEW CALENDAR MANAGER**

7. ***Board of Directors Meeting – 1st Wednesday of month***
   a. Meet 2x/yr to talk about plans for the year and obtain support from the board.
   b. We would like to expand our outreach and get new board members who have connections in the community.
8. ***Grants –*** No grant updates.

9. ***New Business***
   a. Jax Cash for Clothes fundraiser weekend of 4/22 (community garage sale weekend), *need volunteers*

Guest: Lynn Buff with Jax Cash for Clothes

- Textiles (shoes, clothes, linens,…) will be collected during the garage sale.
- Jax Cash for Clothes will pay St. Johns Cares per pound of textiles collected.
- The textiles are sent to another country to give women a chance to start a business/store and the textiles stay out of landfills.
- Trailer will be parked at Food Truck Friday for donations. Volunteers can sign up on Sign-up Genius.
- Trailer will be at the old CDD building Sat/Sun 12-6pm.
- The money we receive will be used to fund the Homeless Student Backpacks.

b. ARC tour 4/7/16
   - Shirley and Meg toured the facility.
   - It is a campus that provides day programs to teach skills to help those with disabilities live independently
   - Funded through state and private donations.
   - They also have off-campus housing.

c. "Chip In For Youth" with The PLAYERS fundraiser in conjunction with CHS Football

d. Meeting with United Way, City of St. Augustine, INK (Education Foundation) & Bailey Agency to collaborate
   - United Way will help spread the St. Johns Cares name in the southern county
   - St. Johns Cares will help spread the United Way name in the northern county
   - We will be equal partners working together for the county.
   - We will be working with the St. Augustine Amphitheatre – patrons may be asked to make food donations at concerts

e. Beneficiaries of Primrose "Spring Flings" 5/13 @JCP, 5/26 @SJF. **Need volunteers for table**

f. Cargo and the Woman in the Flowered Hat – book by Allison Rose to help children understand homelessness – available on Amazon

g. Feel the Wheels – taking place this weekend at the outlet mall and proceeds go to the Children's Museum.
   - Kids will be able to climb all types of wheeled vehicles.
   - $5/child and adults are free

h. GAL (Guardian ad Litem)
   - Teddy Bear Picnic – St. Johns Cares would help collect teddy bears to be distributed to children in the GAL program at a picnic.

i. Invite people to our meetings to learn about what we do.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25p.m.
Next meeting – May 17, 2016
810 Roberts Road (Celebration Lutheran Church)
St. Johns, Florida 32259