

Social Justice Alliance of Cass County Regular Meeting Minutes January 09, 2024



Attendees

Present: M. Buzlaski, D. Bundle, G. Bundle, J. Dye, A. Glover, A. Hubbard, D. Ricker, J. Davidson

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bundle at 2:01 pm on Google Meet.

Approval of the agenda

Motion by Buzlaski, supported by Hubbard to approve as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

October 10, 2323, minutes were presented. Motion by Buzlaski, supported by Glover to approve as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Glover reported a balance of \$373.95 in Fifth Third checking account. No report given on savings balance. Motion by D. Bundle, supported by Dye. Motion carried.

Old Business

- **Public safety survey:** Chair Bundle reviewed that of the five county agencies, two responded to the survey request in 2022. Those results have been compiled. Dr. Ricker of SMC will oversee the criminal justice students in approaching the agencies that didn't respond and those that did to confirm their responses are still current or give the option to update. Surveys may be offered in Word document via email or by USPS. The outreach will now be from the college's program. Once the results have been compiled, Dr. Ricker will contact SJACC. Students return to class on January 16th. D. Bundle stated that the Pokagon Tribal Police requested the option to review the results before being shared with the community. Results will be shared with all participating agencies. Dye stated that the new chief is Mario Red Lakes and that he should be offered the option to update the survey submitted by the former chief. Dr. Ricker stated that SMC has a criminal justice advisory board comprised of various public safety organizations, court officials, and youth and medical center representatives.
- **Backpack Buddies:** D. Bundle stated that Dowagiac Church of Christ has taken over management of the project. Surplus supplies were given to the church by GSC's Director Buzlaski. The church has since provided more backpacks to the Dowagiac Fire Department and was featured in the Dowagiac Daily News. SJACC will continue to support and have offered to connect the church with the other agencies in the county.

- **Dr. Lawless Memorial:** D. Bundle stated that the county commissioners, administrator, and the parks and recreation director are all aware of community support for placement of a memorial honoring Dr. Lawless. Bianca May will be the SJACC outreach. No other information is currently available regarding county contributions toward the project. If there is no financial support, SJACC will consider undertaking fundraising.
- **Bylaws revision:** G. Bundle stated that in the board meeting preceding the regular meeting today, the board approved the revisions including a dissolution clause. The revised bylaws will be filed as required by the state.
- **Finance Team**
 - **MI Nonprofit Relief Fund grant:** D. Bundle stated that the selections were made and SJACC did not receive any grant money.
 - **“Seed money” appeal:** Glover stated that we should close the appeal. \$450 was donated.
 - **Fundraising:** Glover stated that she continues to look for grant opportunities but what she has found requires matching funds.

New Business

- **2024 election of officers:** Chair Bundle stated that the election of officers would be held during the annual meeting in July. He asked what Hubbard needed to assemble the nominating committee. Hubbard said he would ask for interest in running for office at the regular meeting in April. G. Bundle and D. Bundle stated their intention to step down.
- **Community Partners:** G. Bundle asked for updates.

GSC: Buzlaski stated that the first “Parent Café” training would be held on January 10th with the intent to provide resources and support. The Parent Coalition will host “Family Meet & Greets” with the first on January 17th at the Savage Bean Coffee Shop. “Conscious Discipline” is also being offered for the next 11 weeks to help participants make mindful choices during conflict resolution. She will forward flyers and an Eventbrite invitation to share with the membership. All community members are welcome, especially those with young families.

SMC: Dr. Ricker stated the SMC enrollment numbers are up as is criminal justice class enrollment. Davidson stated that a new Vice President of Student Experience had been appointed - Dr. Katie Hannah.

Heritage SW ISD: Hubbard stated that the CTE focus groups results were being compiled and would be made available to community attendees. SJACC will support the advancement of career, technological, and education pathways with the IDS.

- **Cass County Public Transit:** Executive Director G. Bundle stated 70% of Cass County residents are transportation insecure, making the county one of the neediest in the country. SJACC had a transportation working group to address the lack of funding but was disbanded without resource options. CCTA now needs support from the community to promote the February 28, 2024, millage proposal. The millage ask is 1.25 mills, which would equal approximately a \$25 tax increase for a home valued at \$100,000. A “Friends of Cass County Public Transit” group is being organized by Mike Grice and Rayann Franco to rally resources.

Adjournment

Motion by Dr. Ricker to adjourn at 2:31 pm, supported by Glover. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be held April 9, 2024, 6:00 pm in person, location to be determined with Google Meet option.

Respectfully submitted,

Della Bundle, Secretary