

Unit 18 – Christian, Jersey, Macoupin and Montgomery Counties

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Montgomery County Extension Office – 1 Industrial Park Drive, Hillsboro, IL

Call to Order – Sara Marten called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Welcome & Introductions – Council members in attendance were: Connor Ashlock, Connie Beck, Mike Cross, Anna Fessler, Caleb Grover, Sandy Hefner, Venise McWard, Mindy Ward. Staff members in attendance were Jessica Jaffry, Lisa Peterson, and Sara Marten

Minutes from October 2023 – Minutes were reviewed. Venise McWard moved to accept October 2023 minutes as presented. Sandy Hefner seconded. Motion passed. Minutes accepted as presented.

Fiscal Reports – Sara Marten reviewed the fiscal reports for both the trust and revolving accounts for October and November. Most of the expected income in the trust account is being received as expected. Watching a few of the line items that have been higher in past years but should stay within the budget for the year.

Revolving expenses and income have mostly been generated from programs and workshop registration.

Sandy Hefner made a motion to accept the fiscal report. Connor Ashlock seconded. The fiscal report was accepted as presented.

Staffing Updates – Sara welcomed and introduced Jessica Jaffry as the new 4-H Youth Development Educator. The search is currently open for 4-H Program Coordinator positions in both Christian and Jersey Counties. Both jobs close on January 11. Council is encouraged to help share both of these jobs with anyone interested. Plans are to open the unit's two open SNAP-Ed Community Worker positions after the first of the year.

Old Business

- **Community Partner Awards 2023** – Sara reported that both remaining awardees in Jersey and Montgomery County have been recognized. All community partner award winners will be included in the annual impact report.
- **Election of Officers** – Officers for 2024 were nominated and approved as follows:
 - Chair – Vicki Joiner was nominated by Sandy Hefner, seconded by Caleb Grover
 - Vice Chair – Caleb Grover was nominated by Venise McWard, seconded by Sandy Hefner
 - Secretary – Venise McWard was nominated by Caleb Grover, seconded by Sandy Hefner

New Business

- **Community Partner Awards 2024** – Council reviewed the application for the 2024 community partner awards. There was a question regarding which partners had already

been recognized. Sara will make sure the council and staff members receive that list prior to making new nominations. Council agreed to keep the submission date on March 1. Applications will be reviewed during the March 2024 meeting.

- **DEIA Updates & Discussion** – Sara shared copies of the unit’s DEIA goals from the plan of work. Staff members set goals for both increasing diversity and access in programming as well as council and committee membership. Overall, the unit is focusing on increasing representation from black or two or more races, based on county parity reports. There were questions regarding how some of the locations or counties were selected. Counties receive parity reports that help to identify which audiences or groups are not equally represented (from the given population). These reports help staff identify where specific audiences might be located and how to reach them. Sara also reminded that these goals did not include all programming or outreach goals in the unit, just those that focused on increasing diversity and access.

Staff Program Reports – Valerie Belusko, Community and Economic Development Educator, and Andrew Holsinger, Horticulture Educator, submitted a written report that was reviewed. Lisa Peterson, Nutrition & Wellness Educator, and Jessica Jaffry, 4-H Youth Development Educator, gave a verbal reports of past and upcoming programming.

Next Meeting – The 2024 meeting schedule was shared. Meetings will continue to be held on the 3rd Thursday of the following months. All meetings will begin at 7:00 PM.

- March – Thursday, March 21 (Macoupin County Extension Office)
- June – Thursday, June 20 (Jersey County Extension Office)
- October – Thursday, October 17 (Christian County)
- December – Thursday, December 19 (Montgomery County)

With no other business, Sandy Hefner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Connor Ashlock seconded. Motion passed Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

APPROVED 6/20/2024