

## AFFEW ANNUAL RETREAT and BOARD MEETING

February 11, 2012

Location: Home of James and Jane Clark 5543 N. Otter Ridge Dr

Present: Julia Chambers, Jill Budzynski, Sherryl Martin, Ray Dereske, Brenda Begnoche, James Clark, Heidi Moloney, board members.

AFFEW member, Rich Dykstra

Meeting called to order at 12:00PM

Agenda approved.

January minutes approved with one addition, location was at

Redolencia coffee house

1. Communications: Sherryl announced that non-profits could not donate to other charities from their general fund. AFFEW had donated to the accessible boardwalk. Ray recalled that board members had actually donated their own funds under the AFFEW name and not out of the general fund. The policy on non-profit donations is duly noted.

Julia announced an upcoming non-profit networking meeting hosted by the C.O.C. on Wed at 12:00 PM at United Way. Brenda and Heidi agreed to attend and represent AFFEW.

Sherryl announced the Annual Family Affair event to be held March 17 asked for volunteers, Brenda agreed she may be available.

Rich Dykstra announced he is interested in helping with membership development, including recruitment and retention. Jim provided Rich with a membership list. Review of current list indicates 48 current AFFEW members including 7 board members. There was discussion of when memberships expire, if it follows a year from when a person joins, the calendar year thru Dec, or the fiscal year, Oct-Oct. All present agreed to review the by-laws and bring to the next meeting to clarify membership guidelines. Rich volunteered to organize membership and update electronic communication. He emphasized utilizing Facebook, Twitter, email, text for communication with members and the community. It was noted that AFFEW currently has a Facebook page though no one was keeping it current. Julia agreed to contact Rebecca Fox who created account and assigned Rich to manage Facebook page and he agreed.

2. Treasurer's Report, Sherryl Martin:

General Fund: 5,635.17

Battery Fund: 6,650.00

Total Balance: 12,285.17

3. Battery Report, Heidi reported that a shipment for pick up at Padnos has been scheduled for week of February 17. Expected cost based on prior loads \$1700-2,000. The bill typically arrives approximately 4-6 weeks after pick up. Battery Solutions will also exchange out the barrels rather than charging a return fee, as was the practice in the past. In addition, there are now 5 barrels at Padnos to accommodate the growing volume collected.

Great Lake's Energy People Fund to hi-light battery recycling in their future newsletter. Photos from 2 of our collection sites have been sent to them to be used in their article.

There was discussion about Barry Mathews' offer to volunteer to solicit funds from local businesses to adopt buckets or cost of partial buckets. Decision was tabled at this time as Jill and Heidi are currently working on a proposal with C.O.C.

There was discussion from a public inquiry about 18v batteries, if we get paid for them. Sue at Battery Solutions says that depends on what kind of battery, if Nickel, Cadmium-no.

Jim agreed to look into if it is more cost effective for Padnos to pay us for lead or we pay Battery Solutions, he agreed to report back.

Heidi reported that member Beth Clemenson contacted AFFEW with offer to sponsor a partial barrel at Padnos, \$ 200-300.

4. Earth Day: Discussion about potential speakers.

Jim suggested topic on Air Quality Index and the ozone. He shared info from Michigan.gov.DEQ website. He proposed someone to speak to community about our local air quality and what affects it. Sherryl agreed to call someone at the DEQ about a potential speaker.

Other suggestions included: Walkability community speaker from Grand Rapids could be a joint effort with group called Connecting Mason County proposing multi use trails, sidewalks in Mason Co.

Barb Barti [wherethewildthingsgrow.com](http://wherethewildthingsgrow.com)

Rich suggested a new movie he would like to show with a discussion to follow.

Julia announced she had met with representatives from Library, Art Center and Sandcastles they are interested in a collaborative event for Earth Day. She will invite them to planning meeting.

Sherryl proposed a budget for Earth Day of \$1,000. The Board voted and agreed to budget as proposed.

Venue for Earth Day Community Church, Heidi will contact and see if date is available.

Date set for Sat. April 21 Time 12:00-4:00PM

Brenda proposed nature hike or activity for kids if not for ED later in summer.

5. Other Business: Fracking Forum. Julia suggests a date of April 10, 11, or 12 for a forum on Fracking possibly at City Hall with Larry Kivela as moderator. The cost for City Hall to non-profit organizations is \$25.

The Board members agreed to venue for forum and cost.

There was discussion for showing the movie, Gasland to the public near same time as the Fracking forum. No decision was agreed upon at this time as there was not a consensus to showing the movie publically.

6. Next Meeting: Thursday March 8, 2012 at Lucianos Restorante

Dinner: 5:30-6:30PM

Board meeting 6:30-7:00PM

Earth Day Planning 7:00-8:00PM

Jill will be asked to send out reminders and publicity for planning meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30PM