

Evanston Hungry Backpack Program
Minutes of October 13, 2015 Meeting

Present were Carlos Vasquez, Larissa Sneider, Gerry Bolger, Irene Hansen, Holly Robbins, Bev Fackrell, Tina Taylor, Tammy Welling and Karee Hatch.

Meeting was called to order at 4:50 p.m. by Gerry. Minutes were approved with a date correction.

Gerry presented the financial report. The bank account balance as of October 13th was \$16,350.09, but with the recent Walmart order, the amount will be reduced to around \$13,000. In addition, a Smiths order has been placed which will bring the account down to around \$10,000. In the spring, CSBG funding should be available again.

Gerry has been in touch with Tiffany Hogue and is hopeful she will write the local Walmart grant.

Tammy Welling said there is a group of parents proposing a four-day school week and asked how it would affect our program. She said they are thinking of proposing the elementary school children move to a 4 1/2 day week. Larissa said to move to a 3-day weekend for all children would be impossible at this time with the current number of children and rate of spending. Karee said parents could help with fundraisers. Irene said the North Elementary PTA donated \$3000 from a fundraiser they conducted.

Carlos reported on the food bins he has been constructing. He said his labor and materials would be a donation to the program. Glen has been working with the churches and has bins in two places. He will collect those items and would help with collecting food from the grocery store bins. Gerry suggested we have a weekly item of food.

Bev suggested a food or money donation be asked at local sporting events. Having a human food chain from Smiths and Walmart to ball fields might make a good fundraiser. Also a "fill the van" fundraiser was discussed.

Gerry said 501(c)3 status has been received and will help in the fundraising process.

Carlos will now be the Volunteer Coordinator and everyone will work through him when volunteers are needed.

Carlos said cub scouts want to help but in order to maintain privacy it might be more beneficial to use them at the stores or other public events rather than packing bags.

There was discussion about the decision to set a cap at the number of children now being served because of dwindling funding. Holly R. said she has four extra children and was told we wouldn't be able to take them on but then she received enough food for them. She was asking how many she would receive in the future. Bev Fackrell said she had enrolled 23 children from

DMS and did not want to tell them they couldn't receive food after it had been promised. It was agreed there was a misunderstanding between some members of the Board and school representatives. The Board thought Tina and Bev were going to come back with numbers so a decision could be reached whether or not to expand beyond elementary. Tina said it was her understanding we had decided to expand. Tina said we should provide food until the money is gone. Gerry said he didn't want to spend money we don't have. The Board agreed to add the 23 extra DMS children but urged the schools to help with some fundraising. A cap will be set at this time but will be evaluated at each monthly meeting in case new children move into the District.

Possible fundraising ideas: 50/50 drawings at sporting events, bins in schools, Serendipity tip jar.

It will not be possible at this time to provide food during the holidays.

Larissa suggested we buy big cartons of goldfish or other snacks and pack our own little bags. Carlos suggested we clear that with our attorney,

It was agreed meetings will be held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. Next meeting will be November 19th.

Gerry said there have been two Board resignations. Carlos has expressed interest as did Bev. Motion Irene, second Glen to appoint these two new Board members. Passed. Carlos suggested Board members relinquish their spot if they miss three meetings.

Gerry will get some posters to Bev so she can set up a bin at DMS.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Irene Hansen