

**Foodnet Meals on Wheels
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, June 9, 2008**

Present: *Board Members:* Chris Decker, Melissa Gatch, Eloise Green, Jim Henery, Bob Herdt, Sonya Islam, Jim Pratt, Elizabeth Schneider, and Bill Tomek

Excused: Joy Blumkin, Loren Gardner, Lorraine Johnson, Mary Opperman, Cathy Paddock, and Margaret Washington

Staff: Carolyn Arnold and Steve Griffin

Vice Chair Bill Tomek called the meeting to order at 6:15. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented.

Minutes of the May 12, 2008 Board meeting: Motion to approve by Bob Herdt, seconded by Jim Henery and carried.

Committee Reports:

Finance/ Bob Herdt: The Financial Statements show that we continue to do well. As of May 31, there is a 9% increase in participant contributions over last year at this time. The amount spent on gas is 9% over the budgeted amount for January to May. Looking ahead, a budget with an increased amount for gas is to be developed by the Finance committee and staff who will meet later this month.

Development/ Steve Griffin for Loren Gardner: The Annual Fund has raised \$35,766 to date, compared to \$17,500 as of this time last year.

Wheelathon lags behind in donations compared to last year, \$7250 compared to \$9,750. Promotion and fund raising for the September 6 event continue, and will include a "Save the Date" reminder and an article in Tompkins Trust news letter "Bank Notes" Elizabeth Schneider suggested that promotion include noting that the event is a wheelathon – walkathon. Sonya Islam coined the phrase "walk and roll -a-thon," and someone suggested that we put a note on our promotional materials about how you can choose to walk or roll on the Cass Park Trail so people know there is an alternative to driving in the poker run.

Bob Herdt suggested we develop a tag line emphasizing the scope of our services. Many people who are "in the know" are astounded when they hear that "Foodnet serves over 500 people a day throughout Tompkins County." The Wheel-a-thon is a natural place to get out this information. Perhaps Mary Opperman could do a little spiel at the Wheel-a-thon this year. One way to look at it is that every day, Foodnet serves twice as many people as attend the Wheel-a-thon.

Buildings and Property/ Jim Henery: The parking area at the back of the building has had the stone replenished in needed areas. A new van was delivered May 13, 2008. This van is being paid for directly by Tompkins County and Foodnet holds the title with no lien.

PEP Committee/ Chris Decker: There was no P.E.P. meeting this month. Pay raises for staff will be implemented effective for the pay period ending July 4, 2008. This has been planned in the 2008 budget, and was approved by the Board.

Staff Reports:

Carolyn Arnold: A report to the United Way was recently completed regarding the activities of the grant funded Outreach Worker position. To date, 13 food stamp applications have been completed. The process to obtain food stamps has been streamlined with DSS, and participants have received higher food stamp amounts. In addition, Fresh Checks will be distributed to participants to enable them to purchase produce at local farmers markets. These checks allow participants to purchase an additional \$5 worth of produce when \$5 is spent. The United Way Director, James Brown responded positively to the report, saying, "You have made my day! At the end of a long four-day week, thank you for showing me why this work is important. People's lives are changed in healthy and productive ways. It is a great start to the program. I also like the brochure you developed. Again, thank you and best regards."

Steve Griffin: "What If" program contributions are \$124 after the video presentation last month. A motion was made to authorize Mary Opperman to sign the "What if" eligibility for assistance form to allow Foodnet Meals on Wheels to qualify for emergency assistance from the national Meals on Wheels Association and to attest to our local emergency preparedness efforts. This motion was made by Eloise Green, and seconded by Melissa Gatch. It was carried unanimously.

Meals on Wheels Association national training conference will be held August 25 – 29 in Pittsburgh. Bob Herdt made a motion to approve Steve to attend the conference, using \$600 that was budgeted for lodging and travel. Jim Henery seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Steve requested board support to run for an at-large seat on the Meals on Wheels Association of America board of directors. This would involve a two year commitment. A motion was made by Jim Henery and seconded by Jim Pratt endorsing Steve to pursue this opportunity. This motion was also carried unanimously.

Announcements:

Ithaca Festival Parade is June 19, 2008. Foodnet Meals on Wheels will be participating with the Tompkins County Office for the Aging. As the Office for the Aging is an umbrella agency and it often rains on the parade, we will be carrying umbrellas decorated with the themes of our various services.

Annual Foodnet Picnic is Friday June 20, 2008 at Stewart Park. Due to Ithaca Festival, parking passes will be required. Passes were distributed at the meeting, and are available at the Foodnet office.

Old business: none

New Business: none

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Decker