

**Foodnet Meals on Wheels
Board of Director's Meeting
March 10, 2008**

Present: *Board Members:* Loren Gardner, Melissa Gatch, Jim Henery, Bob Herdt, Lorraine Johnson, Cathy Paddock, Elizabeth Schneider, Bill Tomek and Margaret Washington.

Excused: Joy Blumkin, Chris Decker, Eloise Greene, Sonya Islam, Mary Opperman, and Jim Pratt.

Staff: Stephen Griffin.

Vice Chair Bill Tomek called the meeting to order at 6:17. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented.

Minutes of the February 11, 2008 Board meeting: motion to approve by Jim Henery, seconded by Bob Herdt and carried.

Afghan raffle: Eleanor May, member of the Black Sheep Handspinner's Guild (and chair of the Office for the Aging Advisory Committee) was present to offer Board members the opportunity to purchase tickets for an afghan raffle. The afghan is unique as it was hand knit from hand spun wool. One half of all the proceeds will be donated to Foodnet Meals on Wheels. Additional tickets can be purchased (\$3 each or 2 for \$5) by calling Eleanor at 272-8224.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Development Committee/Loren Gardner: \$12,178 has been raised to date, \$4000 of which is for sponsorship of the Wheel-a-thon. A strategy meeting will be held later this week with Greg Hartz, president of our lead sponsor, the Tompkins Trust Company. The United Way of Tompkins County surpassed its fundraising goal of 2 million dollars. Foodnet Meals on Wheels will receive \$2922 in designated giving from these funds. March is National Hunger Awareness month. On March 19th, Ithaca mayor Carolyn Peterson will be delivering Foodnet Meals on Wheels as part of the "Mayors for Meals" initiative. She will be joined by Lisa Holmes, Director of the Tompkins County Office for the Aging. Board members are encouraged to participate as well. Our spring fund raising letter is ready for distribution. Members will be given the opportunity to personalize letters for greater impact before they are mailed. A list of donors will be distributed by email. Names of potential new donors can be given to Steve. Cornell's Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity has invited Foodnet Meals on Wheels to be a beneficiary of its Cayuga Hockey Cup Tournament. Similar development opportunities are always welcome. Board members with publishing and/or design talent are encouraged to assist with the compilation of our upcoming annual report/newsletter. The Graphic Arts department at Tompkins Cortland Community College was suggested as a possible resource.

Finance/Bob Herdt: The Profit and Loss statement for February 2008 shows that we continue to be over budget on income and under budget on expenses. Some income sources were distributed early in the year which temporarily gives us a higher than normal fund balance.

Buildings and Property/Jim Henery: No report.

P.E.P. Committee/Elizabeth Schneider for Christine Decker: The Employee Handbook was reviewed at the March 3rd meeting. No policy changes were made but some of the language was updated and/or clarified to more correctly reflect current operations. Elizabeth made a motion on behalf of the committee to accept the revised Employee Handbook. Motion carried. Carolyn Arnold presented the committee with 3 case studies where the eligibility for Foodnet Meals on Wheels services could be considered questionable. The ensuing discussion allowed those present to more fully appreciate the challenges of balancing the fiscal responsibility of the program with the perceived need of the client. A grievance procedure is in place to address questions about program eligibility or other service delivery concerns.

Executive Committee Report/Bill Tomek: none

Staff Report/Steve Griffin: Carolyn Arnold is out on medical leave but client intakes have continued in her absence now that Carol Ackley, the Nutrition Outreach Worker, is on staff. An informal study was conducted to better understand participant contribution patterns. After a month of counting envelopes distributed verses envelopes returned, it was concluded that approximately 25% of home delivered meal participants contribute to the cost of their meals. Discussion ensued as to whether this 25% contribution rate is in line with our expectations and/or the expectations of our community and our funders.

Steve reported on his recent experiences riding along on a delivery route and making site visits to McGraw House and Titus Towers. Board member Jim Pratt accompanied him on one of the routes/site visits. It may be possible to further maximize the benefits of the route optimization study done by the Cornell engineering students last year. Steve shared the results of a National Meals on Wheels study of factors that contribute to food insecurity among seniors. These factors included such things as being a high school drop out, raising a grandchild, being socially isolated and renting rather than owning a home. Steve will provide more details of the study by email.

Members are invited to attend the annual luncheon of the Tompkins County Office of the Aging which will be held at noon on May 22nd.

Old/Unfinished Business: none.

New Business: none.

Following a motion by Bob Herdt and a second by Loren Gardner, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Paddock, Secretary