

**Foodnet Meals on Wheels
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, November 10, 2008**

Present: *Board Members:* Joy Blumkin, Chris Decker, Loren Gardner, Melissa Gatch, Eloise Green, Jim Henery, Sonya Islam, Lorraine Johnson, Mary Opperman, Jim Pratt, Elizabeth Schneider, Bill Tomek, and Margaret Washington

Excused: Bob Herdt and Cathy Paddock

Staff: Carolyn Arnold and Steve Griffin

Mary Opperman called the meeting to order at 6:17

Minutes of the October 13, 2008 Board meeting: Motion to approve by Bill Tomek, seconded by Elizabeth Schneider and carried.

Committee Reports:

Finance/ Steve reporting:

This year's draws against Tompkins County advances are \$100,000, twice as much as last year. Income for the Foodnet program is up 11% over last year, and expenses are up 6% over last year.

The Finance Committee met on October 31 to discuss 2009 budget. Projections on revenues are as accurate as possible. New York State income may have cuts, perhaps, drastically. Labor continues to be the largest expense, and there is a raise of 3% due on July 1, 2009. There will be a gap of \$15,000 in the operations budget. Fund raising initiatives should help with this. All of the projections should be clearer when the NY State budget is released on December 17.

Lorraine made a motion suggesting the establishment of a reserve fund. Elizabeth seconded. Discussion of this was favorable, and the motion passed unanimously.

Jim Pratt asked for clarification on the acronyms that are used, and where the funding originates. Steve explained the Federal moneys – NSIP, Federal 3C Older Americans Act; State Funds – SNAP, CSE; Tompkins County Grants; and Town Grants

Bill Tomek moved the adoption of the budget, Elaine seconded, the motion was passed.

Development Committee/ Loren reported that the year to date total is \$65,000. The 2009 projection is 100,000, given the annual mailing to be going out soon. The Alternative Gift Fair is December 6, and board members were asked to sign up to volunteer. The Development Committee is beginning to work on a "Major Gifts" Campaign

Nominating Committee/ Bill Tomek reports that the committee met, and determined that there were 3 vacancies to fill. A total of ten names were suggested, and the committee will be contacting them soon.

Staff Reports/

Carolyn:

Chef Mike and his crew will again be providing volunteer services to carve turkeys at the Foodnet meal sites for our Thanksgiving meal, served on Monday, November 24.

Foodnet is applying to the United Way to fund another year of our Nutrition Outreach Worker position. Since Carol Ackley began helping seniors apply for Food Stamps last February, she has submitted 64 applications. Of these, 46 were successful; 8 were denied, and 10 are pending. Fourteen seniors received the minimum benefit of \$14 per month (\$168 per year), while 11 are getting over \$100 a month. The average benefit is \$59 a month. The total annual benefit amount so far is \$32,640 (not counting the 10 still pending).

So far this year, Foodnet has received contributions of over \$1,000 in food stamps. This is more than was received in 2007, with nearly 2 months to go.

Steve / Two Johnson Fellows are doing a project for the United Way board on the effectiveness of United Way grants. Foodnet is cooperating in this initiative. They will be developing measures to look at the success of projects funded in this way.

Steve received 3 replies in response to his letters to NY State senators and assemblymen detailing the need for services like Foodnet. They respond that they are aware of the need in their districts, and are committed to retaining services for older people in NY State.

Federal regulations regarding 403b voluntary retirement plans have changed. Steve read a resolution directing Foodnet to bring the current plan into compliance. A motion was made, and passed, with Loren Gardner abstaining.

Eloise moved to provide Foodnet employees with a \$25 gift card, and a \$25 end of year bonus. Lorraine seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 .

Submitted by Christine Decker