

Ogden Dunes Community Fund

Minutes

February 23, 2021

5 PM Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Nancy Johnson, Carolyn Saxton, Karen Compton, Sophia Arshad, Patti McCall, Maryann Schaefer, Karl Krizmanic (Town Council Liaison)

Meeting called to order: 5:08 P.M.

1. Review and accept minutes from January 25, 2021 with minor revision.
-Carolyn moved to approve, Karen seconded, all approved.

2. Update on the general fund balance. Carolyn indicated that the Community Fund (CF) indicated that \$5000 had been transferred back to Porter County Community Fund (PCCF), which should be reflected in our next report. We received confirmation that Karl received \$385 for the solar trail grant. We should be getting a letter from PCCF next month with their recommended 2021 distribution amount from the endowment for 2021.

A distribution of just over \$5000 from Restore our Shore has taken place. Nancy asked Carolyn if the Community Fund should still allow Restore the Shore to use the pass-through account if they are continuing to raise funds. Carolyn indicated that if individuals wished to give through their charge cards, it is easier to do it through PCCF because the town doesn't have the ability to accept charge gifts. Nancy asked the committee if it was agreeable to allow this to continue into 2021. Carolyn explained that this was run by PCCF. Restore the Shore donations were considered charitable and a pass-through account was set up to accommodate this. Roughly \$5200 had been donated that way and additional businesses were able to set up matching donations – a scenario that may not be available to them if they were to give money directly to the town of Ogden Dunes. Maryann asked if the Town Council voted on accepting money for Restore the Shore. Carolyn indicated it had come up many times at Town Council meetings but no formal vote was taken. Nancy indicated the CF was partnering with Restore the Shore, but had not made a gift.

The pass-through fund is also used on a case-by-case basis for memorial gifts.

3. Nancy asked if Karl had submitted his final grant report. Karl will check.
4. Time line for 2021 grant requests was discussed. PCCF will let us know the amount we have to spend in late February or early March. We would announce at the March Town Council (TC) meeting that we are accepting applications in March, deadline would be Monday, May 10, to give the committee time to review grants to be recommended to the TC at their June meeting.
-Sophia moved to approve 2021 grant schedule, Patti seconded, all approved.

Discussion was had about the grant application itself. Patti asked if we should shift the application to indicate individual names first – prior to department/organization to encourage individuals to apply, as well as whether, if we are to focus on beautification, we should indicate that on the grant application. Carolyn indicated that we had given out many different types of grants. Patti asked if that was to be the case moving forward and Carolyn suggested that would depend on the type of grants that came in.

There was discussion about how to organize the grant form to ensure individuals understood they could put forward ideas without being affiliated with an organization. Carolyn raised concerns about due diligence related to individuals being granted money, as well as tax implications. Maryann indicated that related to tax implications, we would need to be upfront in our marketing materials. She also indicated that, as a committee, if we liked an individual's idea, we could be a facilitator to get an organization to work with them. Nancy agreed, and said it was one of our responsibilities to connect with the appropriate organization, with the added benefit of getting more visibility.

By way of reorganizing the application, Maryann will look at the .pdf and Patti agreed to contact Bethany Jensen about transferring the Google doc and ensuring all applications are emailed to Patti..

We discussed some more marketing ideas – going to Town Council meetings (which Sophia had already done). Patti suggested we do more advertising on Facebook, email blasts.

Nancy asked Maryann to ensure she places notices on all Facebook pages once the grant process begins.

5. Carolyn and Nancy had been approached by Scott Lehmann to see if the Community Fund would consider making a donation to Restore the Shore (the lawsuit between the town and the National Lake Shore and Army Core of Engineers). Concerns were raised about costs and how our contribution may be of limited use in a large lawsuit. Nancy indicated a number of clubs in towns had been approached and that the Lions contributed. Patti asked if the club was looking for a show of support. Nancy suggested we continue to think about it, and both she and Patti raised concerns about providing potential donors insight into how much money has been raised and where money will be spent.

6. Karl wished to address the Town Council resolution accepting a Memorandum of Understanding between Karl and the Town of Ogden Dunes (referenced on Town Council minutes from August 28, 2000). This related to two parcels of land donated by Karl (valued at the time at \$85,650) and matched by a grant from the Lilly Foundation. Questions were raised as to whether the Community Fund would have been created without Karl's donation.

There was discussion about whether the initial agreement needed to be followed, or the agreement between the Porter County Community Fund (PCCF), or abiding by both agreements was possible. Concerns were raised about whether beautification (as stated in the memorandum of understanding) would be the focus, or whether this could be broadened to address education and safety as some donors may have given their money to the fund for those purposes.

Karl requested that a vote be taken as to whether the committee would abide by that resolution. Nancy indicated that she would not bring it to a vote at this time as it was not submitted as an agenda item in advance. She requested that all committee members bring ideas for a resolution to what type of grant requests would be funded to the next meeting keeping in mind what would best serve the needs of the town.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

The next meeting will be March 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.