

Friends of Coonley Board Meeting

April 14, 2020, 8 p.m. (held online on Zoom)

Board Members in attendance: Kristin Morris, Brooke Odem, Brooke Roark, Christina Kreidler, Stephen Laslo, Kathy Alvarez, Erin Van Awken, Inka Cherry

Honorary Board Members in attendance: Lisa Mishkin

Guests in attendance (virtually, via Zoom): Sandy Morris, Kim Belton, Renee Schneidewind, Megan Peterson

Call to order (B. Roark): Called meeting to order at 8:03 p.m.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes (B. Roark): B. Roark makes motion to approve March minutes. B. Odem seconds. All approve.

Treasurer's Report (K. Alvarez): Will go over and approve March financials at a later time when we can look at all the paperwork.

Spring Fling (B. Odem): We were lucky our virtual event came earlier than later in the coronavirus pandemic. Despite not being able to gather in person, it was very successful. Parties sold out even faster than usual. Live and minilive auctions brought in lower totals than in previous live event years, as expected. Fund a need was much lower than usual. Luckily, most vendors allowed us to roll over our deposits, etc. to apply to next year's event. The event raised about \$300K.

Most expenses have been filed, only maybe \$600 outstanding. As the pandemic goes forward, we may have to issue some refunds for parties or teacher experiences; teacher experiences brought in around \$23,000. Some parties will just change their dates, but if people can't make the new date, there may be refund requests. Teachers may be willing to delay the experiences that were bought and do them during the fall. We will have Ms. Morgan ask them. That's another tough one for the 8th graders. Teachers may try to do things for them in the summer. If we don't go back to school, can send out a blast explaining that we are pushing it all teacher experiences back and that people can email FOC with any questions or concerns.

We need to decide what to do about Principal for a Day if we don't go back. Those sales are a lot of small amounts that would need to be refunded if anyone requested a refund. Could also roll these entries into next year's Principal for a Day raffle. Or if we do go back, we could still do it this year.

We also might have people asking for refunds for things like sports tickets.

It's been slow trying to distribute items to auction winners, but we are working on it. B. Odem has the wine, A. Galster has the items and B. Roark has the Coonley Cares incentives. Most

people seem to understand that we are all supposed to stay home at the moment and items will be delivered when it is safe to do so.

We really appreciate the Coonley community staying so solid for Coonley during this. Only a few people told us we either shouldn't have cancelled event or, on the opposite side, that we shouldn't be fundraising during a pandemic. B. Roark explained to the latter folks that the fundraising is needed to pay for teaching assistants next year, and those conversations went well.

We have a lot of candy favors we didn't end up using at Spring Fling. Could use for graduation, or maybe as teacher appreciation gifts if no graduation.

Teacher appreciation week (E. Van Awken): Renee Girardin talked to admin already about some ideas. We had a plan for if we were back in school, but want to get a good backup plan, just in case, for the first week of May. Teachers have been working so hard to set up elearning. Our original plan will not really work if we aren't in school. Currently in a brainstorming phase. One idea is doing gift cards for teachers for essential-item type stores. Could also do local stores, but might not be best choice as some staff don't live nearby. Sent out an email to other teacher appreciation committee members to get ideas. Can we even manage to collect/distribute gift cards? Should we just have kids write emails/make videos to thank their teachers. Keep it virtual. Other schools (Queen of Angels) have done this like an iMovie. Who would piece it together? Maybe record a zoom meeting or set up a full group session that week when kids could thank teachers with a card or a sign. Would have to figure out something that would work for each grade level based on the platforms they are using. (Zoom, Google meet, Flipgrid, seesaw.) Would middle-schoolers actively participate? Friends of Amundsen is having similar discussions and brainstorming ideas on how to thank their teachers, possibly spotlighting those in households with first responders. Could grubhub cards work for Coonley staff? Should we pause on the monetary gift until we welcome them back? Have to plan for the contingency that we won't come back at all though.

Coonley Cares (B. Roark): Lisa Mishkin presented the idea for Coonley Cares to support Common Pantry's I Am Your Neighbor initiative. Could use leftover umbrellas/wine carriers as incentives. It's a hard time to ask people for money, but it's a huge help for them to even get a \$10 donation which funds a meal. Many CPS families use these services. S. Laslo says it could be a nice virtual option to the usual food drive we do at school that we won't be able to do this year. Should we collect money and write a check to Common Pantry? Or should we just advertise their need? Might get more funds going via us with the umbrella/bags as incentives. Would likely need to have a quick campaign. Or should we even seed the donation right now and then write a further check if donations go over that amount? L. Mishkin can follow up with Common Pantry.

6-8 Dance (I. Cherry): Was supposed to be on May 8. Need to let photographer and DJ know that it is likely canceled. We can try to reschedule later in spring if there's any way we return. Maybe ask vendors if we can roll the deposit into next year.

Cubs Diamond Grant (B. Roark): It's currently impossible to finish the grant because we can't meet with vendors about our proposal. We can reach out to the Cubs' grant people and see if it's possible to make an incomplete application. Other schools will be in the same position we are.

Ribfest: (L. Mishkin): Have 15 of 30 volunteer spots on Sunday to fill. Tough to get people with pandemic going on. The Ribfest staff also is discussing postponing event to August.

Book Fair: (S. Laslo): End of year? Virtual? Do we work with Book Cellar to help out a local business? Scholastic and Follett not giving as much as they normally would and we can't hold it in library anyway. Would held as scheduled in April. The book fair team and Ms. Wiltse are talking with the Book Cellar people.

Adjournment: K. Morris moved to adjourn meeting at 9:17 p.m. C. Kriedler seconded. All approve.

Minutes prepared by K. Morris. Next FOC meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 2020.