

## **Friends of Rainier Meeting Minutes - 5-21-16**

Since Jeff Carter was absent, President Emeritus Tom Dean introduced the board members – Jeff Carter, Kris Brott, Jim Hardman, Kathy Craig, James & Rhonda Meyers, Mark & Louise Von Walters and Lynette Stevenson.

Marya Gingrey (the Rainier School Community Resource Program Manager) gave an update on current programs at Rainier.

- The Fashion Show – was a very successful event that created energy, buzz and excitement for both staff and clients in the weeks leading up to it and put smiles on the faces of clients, staff and community people as well. Our honorary judges (Eric & Takeyo) are now big fans of Rainier School after participating, and told the Families First Coalition members that they should also volunteer at Rainier. They also suggested the theme for next year's Fashion Show be "Heart to Heart"
- Staff and clients participated in Buckley's Relay for Life event on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The team of almost 70 participants (17 clients plus staff) walked from 7 pm to midnight and raised over \$1,300 to donate to American Cancer Society. Team shirts were worn and a spirit stick was passed between participants and stayed on the track throughout the night. Relay feet were sold at the coffee shop and Rainier Thrift & Gift. One client raised \$100 in feet sales. There was a bake sale, hot dog lunch sale and a staff member with a kettle corn business donated ½ the profit at the event. Clients and staff decorated over 100 'hope rocks' that were given to cancer survivors and also decorated over 400 luminaria bags that were lit with battery operated candles. They definitely want to participate again next year.
- The Rainier School Employee Recognition program will be June 23, 2016 with a theme of 'Excellence in Action' where staff will be recognized, especially for caring for clients and having positive attitudes.
- Rainier will have a presence at the Buckley Log Show on June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>
- Summerfest will take place Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 am. There will be vendors, carnival games, food, entertainment and more. The theme will be The Olympics and there will be an Olympic parade of clients and staff throughout the grounds complete with a 'torch' and medals for all clients who participate.

Marya also gave other campus updates –

- Rainier now has a new Assistant Superintendent – Jeff Flesner, who is from Fircrest and shares the vision and passion for leading Rainier School in a positive direction
- The coffee shop will be undergoing renovations. A designer is coming out to help make changes.
- Rainier now has several 15 passenger golf carts. They are hoping to create a bus stop route around campus.
- The DSHS Employee Survey Results & Engagement Plan has just released results and those results are being processed and will be compared to the 2007 survey. The results will be used to find out what can be improved upon.

- Client photo release forms are not consistent with DDA/DSHS forms and she doing research so that they can be redesigned.
- Marya and Harvey are continuing to reach out to the community to build relationships by speaking to groups such as Kiwanis and the White River School District. Marya also designed a Powerpoint presentation to be used.
- They are looking into the possibility of participating in the Special Olympics in the areas of swimming, bowling and basketball. Legal logistics will have to be worked out for that to occur.
- They are working to bring the volunteer program back. Volunteers have already been helping at the art center.

Katia spoke about different ongoing projects that Rainier is doing that are increasingly involving other groups as partners. The Rain Garden Project has been partnering with a WSU Master Gardener and the Pierce County Water Conservation District. Cisco Morris, who has TV and radio shows on King 5, is interested in the project as well. The Edible Gardens project is getting plants from the women's prison. The prison has also donated 52 quilts (2 of which are sensory quilts). 50 of the quilts will be hung in the chapel to help with the acoustics. The Mandella Project for Mosaic Stones will need \$2K for the metal frame, so FOR is hoping to partner with the Longshoremen Union to provide the funding.

Teresa Dean gave an update on her project that looks into what research is available to support the existence of RHCs like Rainier School. The next steps needed are -

1. To assign a FOR board member to be in charge of the research project
2. To assign a Research Committee Chair
3. To look into how to fund a research review by a) volunteers - 2 people would take classes to train/learn how to do a research review b) a hired librarian - the cost would be \$2-6K c) a hired research firm - the cost would be \$10K+

Since the 'close RHC' side is spending money for research and implementing RHC closers, it is good to remember the potential high cost of not investing in our own research. A lawyer, if we needed one to defend our position, would cost \$50-200K. A suggestion was made to provide a specific way for people to donate for this research project on our FOR website. It was also suggested that we find organizations that fund health care research and ask other RHCs to co-fund the project.

FOR website update - Anita from the recreation staff has been assigned to help get more of the Rainier activities on the FOR website so that family can know more about what is going on/coming up. We discussed the possibility of selling the mosaic stones for donations through the FOR website.

Everyone was encouraged to attend the Action DD Meeting on June 4 at 10 am at YVS and/or to give them donations so that we can continue to have a lobbyist in Olympia.

The Rainier Family Picnic is our next big event and takes place July 17. FOR will be funding the DJ. We will need 'poker walk' volunteers. Jan said that the clowns are set to participate.

We were reminded to visit the coffee shop on Sundays, to show our support for having it open on weekends again.

\$39 was raised from the raffle.