

## Friends of Rainier Meeting Minutes - 11-20-16

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - President Jeff Carter introduced the board members - Jeff Carter, Kris Brott, Jim Hardman, Kathy Craig, James & Rhonda, Mark & Louise Von Walters, Lynette Stevenson and Tom Dean (President Emeritus).

SUPERINTENDANT HARVEY PEREZ UPDATE -

- SEXUAL ASSAULT - a seasoned Rainier employee of 35 years was caught and charged with 2<sup>nd</sup> degree sexual assault. Due to the ongoing criminal investigation by the Buckley police, Harvey was limited in what he could comment on, but he did share some important points.
  - o The residents involved as well as staff are encouraged to receive counseling
  - o For the investigation, staff will be interviewed and past paperwork will be examined to see if there is evidence of other inappropriate actions by the accused employee
  - o Thankfully, proper procedure was followed in this situation. The new hire employee immediately called 911 and followed all the proper steps that they have been taught and that are laid out in detail on the back of staff badges
  - o DSHS is required to put out press releases in these situations in order to fulfill their transparency requirements
- FUTURE FOCUS - Moving forward from this point, Harvey would like the focus to be on becoming the best RHC in the state. He is committed to innovative programming, more work activities, more creative programs, etc. to enhance the quality of life for all Rainier residents.
  - o They are working on a bike program in which they will get more bikes as well as repair bikes. They are to partner with others in the community such as the Buckle Youth Bike Program.
  - o With Harvey being a member of the White River Family First Coalition, Buckley Chamber of Commerce and the White River Family First Coalition, he is able to discover more opportunities for partnership such as the Buckley Tree Lighting Ceremony on 11/26/17. Rainier School is helping to lead and breathe new life into this community event. We purchased new lights for the tree and with Katia and other staff's help, clients were able to help create a 7 foot tall snowman family, an 8 foot angel and multiple large candy canes, all out of painted wood, which are on display out by the tree, which is out by Hwy 410. There will be additional activities, such as choirs, to liven up the event.
  - o Rainier is also participating in the Live Tree Auction at the Eagles Club, which raises money for the Chamber of Commerce. Clients have been making Christmas ornament snowflakes out of clear and blue glass which will be added to lights, etc. onto a Christmas tree and will be auctioned off.
  - o Rainier is involved in the annual combined fund drives for all state agencies. The drives raise money for 1) kids/family 2) Vets 3) pets. They also participate in an annual food drive.
- NEW LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE - Reporting directly to Superintendent Perez
  - o Jeff Flesner - Assistant Superintendent
  - o 3 Program Directors - Pat A - John Goldade / Pat C - Kate Larson / Pat # - Derick Sleight
  - o Administrative Assistant - Lynn Reedy
  - o Medical Director - Dr. John Kadeski (who is replacing Dr. Christian Dahl. He is a talented, holistic type of doctor), Director of Nursing - Danette Delo, Medical Services Coordinator - vacant
  - o Communications Consultant - Marya Gingrey
  - o Lead Psychologist - Constance Sharp, OA Staff Safety Program Manager - Mary Sinkovic, PHSS Director - Pat Bockelman
- FOR MEETINGS - Harvey and Jeff will rotate attending FOR meetings (Pat Directors also)
- RAINIER TOURS - They are working hard to create a great, consistent, repeatable tour for legislators and other important visitors that will show off the great things that are happening
- SUPERINTENDENT PHILOSOPHY FOR MAKING RAINIER A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK -
  - o We cannot be complacent - Harvey's goal is to inspire, motivate and challenge

- o Communication, collaboration and coordination – working in partnership amongst the Pat directors
- o Continue to increase activity opportunities such as the canteen/bowling alley – make it a hoppin' place
- o In an world of heavy compliance, he believes in empowering staff to help create a good/safe environment – putting the right people in the right position is an important aspect of that
- o Dignity and respect for all clients and staff
- o Partner with community
- o Accountability

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM/ARTS PROGRAM UPDATE – Katia Ramirez mentioned that client made art is being displayed at the art center and everyone is encouraged to go view it. She showed us samples of the glass snowflake ornaments made by clients for the Live Tree Auction. Work is continuing (with client involvement) on the Rain Garden outside the art center (which is part of a larger 12K Raingardens Project). There was also a community vegetable garden located next to the small greenhouse this year. The list of partnerships and community connections within the Sustainability Program is growing. Pierce Co. Public Works has provided edible gardens workshops and composting classes; Harvest Pierce Co, Pierce Co Conservation (PCC) and WSU Master Gardeners have given guidance and mentoring; PCC and WSU are also assisting with building the Rain Garden; Monroe Correctional prison will be building 6 additional customized large worm bins; Seattle Tilth purchased worms and will continue to be a customer; Enactus University students are helping to create a business model for the program; Home Depot will be building 5 special beds for the Community Garden, so that clients in wheelchairs will have access (one will even have a 12” grid pattern for visually impaired clients). The list of benefits is also growing. For clients – active treatment, education, fun, new skills, group participation, therapeutic treatment, quality of life improvement and for the future, hopefully paid ATP positions. Other benefits – decrease in waste (worms eat a lot of food scraps, paper and cardboard), money savings and money making (selling worm castings for fertilizer, selling worm tea for plant health and selling the worms themselves). Donations to the worm account are encouraged.

ACTION DD/VOR/PC2- We are still encouraging everyone to give individually to Action DD in order to reach our \$35K per year goal which funds our lobbyist. FOR has already given the maximum legal donation that we can for the year. We also recommend joining VOR, which is the national pro-RHC voice. This is especially important since there is a push on the federal level to close down state run institutions. Due to that reality, VOR sent out an email campaign to educate our legislators on the Olmstead Decision and everyone is encouraged to participate. PC2 will be giving Bob Gee a posthumous award for his wonderful service in that organization.

DRW LAWSUIT AGAINST DSHS – We had lawyer Keith Kemper look at the lawsuit. Tom and Jeff will follow up with him. He talked to the Assistant Attorney General. We are waiting for more information and a report from him.

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL REPRESENTATION - The Rainier School Human Rights Council still needs parent/sibling/guardian volunteers to be a part of the council. The council meets Mondays at 1 pm to review clients programs (IHP's, PBSP's, and Ad-hocs) as these documents relate to client rights. Training is provided. The question of flexibility in the meeting dates/times or the possibility of phone conference calls was brought up.

E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION - We are now using Constant Contact to send out e-mails to our entire FOR membership list, so look for frequent e-mail updates.

#### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

- Mandala Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – delayed due to weather conditions
- Christmas Party – Sunday, December 18 (official start time 12:00 pm – we start letting clients in at 11:30 am). We discussed who would do/bring what. The clowns will be attending. We need a new Santa.
- Our next membership meeting will be Saturday, January 21 at 11:30 am

\$50 was raised from the raffle.