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**Fox Valley United Way  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
8:30 am –10:00 am  
Thursday, April 11, 2024 – Via Zoom**

1. Call Meeting to Order—CEO Deborah at 8:34a
2. Roll Call  
**Board Present**—Mark, Karen, Laura, Mansa, Joe D., Diana, Marisa, Stacey, and Michele  
**Board Absent**—Joe E., Maria, Terese, Kelly  
**Staff Present**—Deborah
3. Approve Minutes—March, 2024 Board minutes were approved.
4. Chairman of the Board's Report—Mark welcomed our newest board member, Marisa Richards, joining us from the Painters District Council No. 30 located in Aurora. This union construction trade organization represents painters and drywall finishers. Marisa has been involved in committee work with FVUW for 12 years.
5. Chief Executive Officer Report—Deborah reminded everyone to be sure and follow the FVUW Facebook page for the most current updates and information. And if you haven't already, sign up for our Friday 5 Newsletter which comes out twice a month. Please let her know if you have any feedback. It's an easy, quick-read and provides a good overview of our organization's activities.
6. Committee Reports  
**Finance**  
Mark reviewed our February, 2024 Financials. Cash looks good, and there are no concerns. Pledge receivables are comparable to last year, and this is important. Allocations are reasonable, and there are no concerns with liabilities. There is more income from 211 this year, and there's about \$60K less in grant income on the line for SPARK. Allocations to Agencies is up approximately \$40K. Mark reminds us June 30<sup>th</sup> will be our FY 2024 year end.

#### **HR Updates**

The SPARK team is officially at full capacity with the addition of Amber! She brings wonderful, positive energy. Her master's is in Leadership, and she is bringing excellent skills to our organization. We are very fortunate to have fabulous interns too. Grace is a social work intern working with SPARK. Maddie is a Marketing and Communications student at AU.

Deborah was invited to attend Aurora University's round table of community leaders who are supporting their internship program. FVUW was acknowledged for the great feedback their interns are providing after working with us—specifically the focus we place on providing an environment that fosters soft skills around a culture of supportive guidance. This makes them more employable. Rosa, JD, and Lisa have been doing a great job of leading these interns!

Now that we have full staff in place, we will schedule our full staff Team-Building Session for Friday, May 3rd. It will be DISC training performed by Marianne Renner, Leadership Coach.

## Nominating

It is important to note that at the end of our FY 2024, we will have two very important board members rolling off: Stacey and Terese. Deborah recognized the significant contributions they have made, and that it will be difficult to fill these big gaps in our Board. Stacey has recommended someone from Copley to join us. Each of us was asked to consider who is in our circle of contacts and refer your potential nominees to Deborah.

## Impact / Investment

- As previously reported our 2024/2025 Grant Application portal has been updated and is now open on our website. To date, 10 Agencies have accessed the portal, and 3 of them are new agencies. We will consider one program per agency.
- In preparation for June budgeting, Deborah will be working with Nancy to begin in May by evaluating the existing budget and we hope to have a clearer idea of dollars available for allocations by early June. The grant instructions specifically spell out the grant funding priorities are to align with Early Childhood Education (preparing young children for success in school and life) and ALICE (programs that provide basic human needs assistance for struggling households in our communities).
- Speaking of struggling households, the food pantries need assistance to purchase diapers and personal hygiene products. These things are not covered in WIC or SNAP. We held a very successful Diaper Drive during the Week of the Young Child!
- JD is reaching out to United Way of Milwaukee as they have an organized a successful diaper “bank” and have put together personal hygiene kits. More needs to be done to support these critical requirements for women and infants.

## 7. Development

**Community Resource Committee**—JD provided us with updates and reminders of events coming soon:

- Look for the FVUW group on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:00p to 7:00p at Alter Brewing in Geneva. They are a great partner! And their food and beer is good too 😊
- Our “Mom Made Me Do This 5K” is set for Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at Phillips Park. It will be a timed/chipped race. We are fortunate to have Rush as our Partner and we have agreed to split the profits 50/50 with them. There will be separate times for runners and for walkers. Check out the flyer, and our website for more details. We currently have 63 registered, and our goal is 100.
- Marketing Interviews – JD continues to interview holiday assistance and SPARK recipients to get sound bites for short promotional videos. Also, discussed getting a copy of the recorded interview that Deborah did for the City of Aurora in hopes that we can use some sound bites from that as well.

## 8. Program Updates—SPARK

- Playgroups are being held in collaboration with World Relief every Friday from 9:30am to 11:30am at the New England Church. We have also worked together with the Early Childhood Collaboration in St. Charles and completed their first full session of Opening Doors Parent Program. We held our graduation for Opening Doors with 7 parents graduating from the program, including 1 dad!
- Developmental Screenings are ongoing and include:
  - Once a month in Plano Public Library until May 2024
  - Once a month at the Santori Library, West and Eola public Library
  - Parents Groups once a month at Family Focus
- Collaborations:
  - Rosa sits on an Early Childhood Committee with the City of Aurora Educational Commission and also attends all their monthly commission meetings – Ambre attended with her this month
  - SPARK Collaboration Network. The next meeting is April 24, from 10:00am to 11:30am at Prisco Community Center
  - All Our Kids Collaboration Network holds monthly meetings
  - Birth to Five

- Raising Illinois
- Grants: Rosa has been spending time with our grant writer.
  - Northwestern Medicine Grant application was unfortunately denied and the explanation provided listed the large number of applicants, compared to funds
  - Blue Cross Blue Shield Grant application was denied, also stating they were overwhelmed with the number of applicants
  - Chicago Community Trust Application was complete last week, so status is TBD
  - Dunham Foundation; our LOI was completed and submitted
  - Kiwanis grant application was completed last week
  - Community Foundation – LOI submitted and they requested a site visit and invitation to apply
  - Painters District Council – will discuss with grant writer
  - We are applying for a SPARK Early Learning Van & Project. We are writing for a large van that will be wrapped with the SPARK / FVUW Logo, and perhaps a partner logo, that will have an interior built out to allow our SPARK team to travel to events and locations to do screenings and activities. All of their supplies and resources will be organized and packed away, and employees will not be required to use their personal vehicles. We have put together a proposed budget of \$50,000.00 which includes the insurance, parking, wrap, build out, and laptops. We recognize many of the people that need our services lack access to transportation
  - We have been approached by VNA to consider an Early Literacy Collaboration in their new expanded VNA center – we will be meeting with further to discuss.
- Springfield: The SPARK team will be heading down to Springfield on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> for Early Childhood Advocacy Day

## 9. Engagement

### **ALICE**

- Lisa will be heading down to Springfield on May 1<sup>st</sup> to join other United Way's for *Lobby Day* in support of the 211 program, ALICE, and Child Tax Credit increases, and ask for updates to the Illinois Predatory Lending Act.
- Lisa presented to the Waubensee Area Planning Committee and there was a lot of interest in the new ALICE data.
- There is an ALICE Stakeholders Meeting on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Santori Library in the John & Jean Savage Room beginning at 9:00a. The agenda of this meeting will include the following as time allows:
  - Introduction to the ALICE data
  - Identify the ALICE population in Aurora and understand how the ALICE population limits the growth of the community
  - Identify what resources and services support the needs of the ALICE population
  - Identify organizations currently supporting ALICE households and understand their capacity
  - Identify which programs are at capacity and which are not full and understand what is preventing people from taking advantage of existing programs
  - Questionnaire to participants regarding their work with the ALICE Population
  - Schedule a second meeting to review the questionnaire and set goals for the committee

### **Women United**

We are looking into holding a “friend-raising” event in Aurora in June. We need to grow the Women’s United committee before we can consider new fundraising events.

### **Kane 211**

We have received an Illinois 211 grant from the Department of Human Services to Support Kane 211 Marketing in the amount of \$23,417.32. We have completed the reimbursement requests, which represent 15% of Lisa’s Salary, meeting, and travel

expenses for November, 2023 through March, 2024 of \$5,889.00. Lisa is finalizing a contract with local Comcast channels for a total of \$5,122.10 and is looking at Shaw Media Advertising. The money needs to be spent by June 30, 2024.

10. Next Meeting Date—May 9, 2024

11. Adjournment—at 9:59a