

**Minutes from Steering Committee Meeting Written by Tequilla
Thursday, January 17, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. until 12:40 p.m.**

Present: Kathleen Olivieri, George Evans Light, Barbara Tucker, John Harkness, Mayor Parker Wiseman, Carol Ball (this was her first meeting; she is looking to work with *SBOP*), John Ellis, Katie Lewis (this was her first meeting; she will be helping out with *SBOP*), John Breazeale, Ned Browning, Pastor Grant Arinder, and Nancy Walsh

Moderator: The Reverend Lynn Phillips-Gaines

- 1) Opening Prayer- Pastor Grant Arinder
- 2) Opening Remarks- The Reverend Lynn Phillips-Gaines
 - A. Grant and Jim met with Lynn to discuss *SBOP*.
 - B. VISTA Volunteer- Santana Brown had health issues and had to leave the VISTA position.
 - C. Operations Administrator- Tequilla extended her stay to help out with *SBOP*. Lynn is currently looking for someone to fill this position.
- 3) Old Business- Lynn made the following announcements...
 - A. We are still waiting to hear from the Episcopal Church about the Seed Money grant. They cannot find our application.
 - B. We did not get a grant from the Rotary Club, and we are still waiting to hear back from the Kiwanis Club and State Farm (we should have received notice by the end of 2012).
 - C. We referred our graduates to the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace class at Emerson beginning January 2013. The course is free. About 5 of our graduates signed-up to take the course.
- 4) Financial Business- Lynn announced the following...
 - A. We received end of the year 2012 contributions in the amount of \$275. We sent out a letter before the New Year letting people know the ways in which they can contribute to *SBOP*. We got about 6 donations.
 - B. Kim Stevens made a \$100 donation as well.
- 5) Current Projects and Needs- Lynn discussed the following...
 - A. We will not create a huge calendar of events until we have a good turn out at the *BOP* training. Phil DeVol said that we have not done a good job creating a *BOP* community. We need buy-in from the community, so if we get enough people to attend the *BOP* training, we will bring Phil DeVol here to do a facilitator training (or can simply call it a "volunteer training") on Thursday, April 11th from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m (may not take the full time) in the conference room at MSU South Hall. It costs roughly \$3,000 to bring Phil here versus \$299/person to take the

training online with him. It is cheaper to get Phil here. We need to have the allies at this training.

B. *BOP* training event is Friday, February 22nd at the Sportsplex from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At the 2011 training, there were 131 people in attendance. We need to have 100 people at this training at \$50/person. We are offering scholarships for students (they still pay 15 to attend to cover lunch and book), people who cannot afford it, and for those of you who already did the training. We have one month to promote the event.

- Lynn met with interested people in West Point from the Episcopal Church and at DHS. She will also meet with the Alderman. Sandra Sistrunk will pay for those who cannot pay to attend the event.
- Lynn asked for the steering members to contact people and ask them to attend the training, especially people in Westpoint. She also asked for the steering members to announce the event to their individual churches and get the event information on bulletins and the pew sheets. We have established a relationship with Trinity Presbyterian Church.
- Mayor Parker Wiseman will contact Scott Ross and Milton Sunbeck. George Evans Light will contact Maridith Geuder. Lynn will contact the Overstreets. Lynn would like to have Eddie Scott, the judicial officers, Giles Lindley, and the Ritz present at the training.
- People can sign-up and pay online for the event.
- Lynn passed out flyers for the *BOP* training to the steering members to post around.
- Barbara Tucker asked for someone to speak at the Methodist Women's meeting on the 4th Monday. She and Nancy Walsh discussed it after the meeting.
- Lynn commented that people do not understand the distinction between *BOP* and other charities. She suggested that the steering members read *Toxic Charity*; it is in the *SBOP* library for check-out. The book is written by an urban minister who talks about how we hurt our charities. This book is important for giving each other feedback.
- Tequilla met with administrative personnel Elizabeth Nicholson at Starkville High School; Tequilla will follow-up with her about someone giving a presentation to their faculty and staff.
- Tequilla met with Eileen Carr at the Starkville Health Department; Ms. Carr and her staff may attend the event.
- Tequilla has also distributed flyers at different locations in town.
- Lynn met with Ericka Gillespie, a graduate, and she and Sara Moye, another graduate, will attend the training. Ericka will also help out with speeches and presentations.
- John Breazeale and George Evans Light will oversee the set-up for the training. They will have a table set-up to help people figure out how to plug-in with *SBOP*.
- Lynn expressed how we need steering members to help people sign-up to participate; steering members will not have to pay to attend the event.

- Lynn asked the steering members to contact other steering members to encourage them to come to the training. Tequilla will send out the contact list.
- C. Lynn announced that *SBOP* may be the philanthropy spotlight at the Barron's Top Women Advisor's meeting this year.
- D. Lynn commented that we may have to raise money each year as we go along.
- We need to look at the private sector and get corporate sponsors to make a \$2-5,000 commitment for 3 years. We need enough money to at least sustain our programs.
 - Lynn contacted Raymond James for money and met with Bank First in which she hand-wrote the CEO.
 - We are trying to get money via the *BOP* training.
 - Grant suggested getting sororities and fraternities to donate money. John Breazeale commented that most of their philanthropies are set, but Barbara Tucker said that sometimes they change who they give money to. Carol Ball will call MSU Panhellenic Council, which is comprised of sororities on MSU campus.
- E. Tequilla asked for volunteers to set-up and run the booth for the Organizational Fair at the Sportsplex on Tuesday, March 26th from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Kathleen Olivieri's daughter's sorority will help out; George Evans Light will help with set-up and running the booth; Kathleen will also help; Grant will be there from noon-1 p.m.
- F. *Moving Ahead* (Master's Program)
- Tequilla introduced Carol Ball from MSU Extension. Carol Ball and staff are the coordinators of SNAP-Ed and EFNEP; these two programs provide education (i.e. nutrition) to people receiving federal assistance. They work through the school system, but have a difficult time reaching adults/parents. We discussed *SBOP* providing the adult participants a stipend to do their curriculum, which would include a cooking class/food demos.
 - Carol Ball explained the paraprofessional's model; they generally do not hire people with degrees in nutrition but rather those who are indigenous to the community.
 - Dr. Bobbie Shaffett is writing a course "Pie in the Sky, How to Get Your Slice" specifically for our graduates.
 - Ned Browning will reach out to his contact at MSU.
- G. Speaking opportunities- Mrs. Lynn spoke to Angella Nichols and staff at DHS on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 9 am. Some of her staff will sign up for the *Getting Ahead* class. Beverly Hammett, President of The Lion's Club, asked for a speaker on either the 1st or 3rd Thursday of the month. Please help us get on the program of other civic clubs, church organizations, etc.
- H. Meggan Franks is working on our logo. We are also getting a new website.
- 6) Next meeting as a steering committee is **February 14th at 11:30 a.m. in Lynn's downstairs conference room. Please place your food order with Newk's and we will have it delivered**

to the office. We were unable to reserve McAlister's. Next board of directors meeting will follow the steering committee meeting on February 14th.

7) Questions/Comments

- A. Lynn commented that there are a lot of positive things going on and further ahead. She emphasized how important it is for us to make personal calls to invite people to attend the training.
- B. Lynn announced that the Methodist Church allowed *SBOP* to be spotlighted at the Christmas parade.
- C. Lynn will speak at Grant's church on Sunday.
- D. Grant suggested inviting the ministers he knows to lunch and having Lynn show them the video and present *SBOP*. Other steering members can also attend.
- E. Jim Ellis will interview Tequilla about *SBOP* and the training tomorrow (Friday) at 9 am and run it on his radio show.