

Camp Harkness Foundation (CHF) minutes

May 28, 2025

Meeting called to order 5:40 PM

Attendees: Theo Powers, Marion Brown, Vicki Severin, Shannon Aiello, April Dipollina, Laurie Allan, Jackie Staller, Elisa Marcoux, Melissa Jessic. Vanessa Bunnell, Jennifer Starkey, Taylor.....

The treasurer's report was approved

### **New Business**

A new staff person Taylor was introduced- welcome.

Jennifer Starkey a new volunteer was introduced-Welcome.

Theo has created a note book for volunteers to use when they start at camp-Thank you

Jennifer, asked about the history of CH- A brief history was given by those present.

Elsia & Theo reported that we have lifeguards. We have 6 and still need one more PT position.

The beach is open.

Laurie reported that because of the weather only half of the plants were sold at the Friends of Harkness (FOH) plant sale. The master gardeners planted and donated the plants

IDD Day was discussed-

It was mentioned that Friday and/or a weekday is a bad day to hold the event, because most people are working including passholders and people and staff in group homes. It was suggested that the event be held on a weekend.

We sold \$350 in t-shirts/apparel and that does not include Venmo.

About 700 people attended.

Melissa, camp horticulturist, reported the grounds were in good shape. We all agreed the grounds looked good.

Elisa reported we have great staff and they worked well. We all agreed

It was suggested that there needs to be more publicity including: an explanation of what the event is about, who it is for including the fact that the public is welcome.

More vendors were needed. 3 vendors canceled that left a 45-minute wait at the BBQ truck. A lot of passholder need receipts for what they buy. It was suggested we try and find a better way

to expedite this process. Perhaps, inform the vendors they will need to give receipts and possibly have pre made receipts ready. Instead of vendors it was suggested that CW food service could do something for the food.

Community Foundation Grant-

It was brought up that, Cres Secchiaroli, Regional Director for the South Region DDS, was unaware of the wonderful grant opportunity we received from the community Foundation.

Vanessa will volunteer until the conflict of interest is figured out.

Vanessa reported on Ocean Avenue Living Academy (OALA) a program at LEARN in New London. OALA has a “strong emphasis on collaborative partnerships and relationships. “Building community connections and skills to support all areas of life” As part of the Community engagement, under the grant, Vanessa plans to work with OALA on the bridge project, and butterfly enclosure. Their volunteer days would be Wednesday and Fridays.

Train Show

April and Shannon reported on the Train Show-

Theo is working on a flyer. When it is done Shannon and April will get it to the train show enthusiast to distribute at their clubs and train shows. We hope to get vendors interested in having a table at the show. Theo will distribute the flyer on digital media.

Theo has already done a lot of work getting food vendors to sign up for the event.

### **Other Business**

Fall Festival-

Theo will give an up date next month on the food vendors and crafters.

Bricks were discussed -It was suggested we create a ladder for gift giving.

Bricks would be part of the gifts ladder. Bricks will stay at the playground. Theo will have a print out of the ladder of gifts for next month’s meeting.

We will vote on the color of the benches next month.

A suggestion was made that we offer Zoom / TEAMS access for anyone who want to be informed of the CHF information. This will be discussed in more detail at our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectably submitted, April Dipollina