

Rocky Bottom Retreat and Conference Center of the Blind
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2018 – 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL:

Those present were Frank Coppel-Chair, Ed Bible-Vice Chair, Shannon Cook-Secretary, Valerie Warrington-Treasurer, Jennifer Bazer, Dr. Thomas O. Bowen, Debra Canty, and David Houck. Those not in attendance were Donald Capps, who was out due to his wife's poor health, and Lenora Robertson, who was cooking but not present in the meeting.

Others Present: Pat and Dale Wolthoff, Ike Nelson, Julie Bible, Steve Cook, Barry Chavis, Garrett Mosely, Loretta Green, Shelley Coppel, JW Smith, Ora Bell Smith, Linda Bible, Jimmy Masters, Tiffany Mitchell, and Daisy Drakeford.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. JW Smith opened the meeting with prayer. Frank thanked everyone for thoughts and prayers recently while his grandson Luke Dennis has been in the hospital for the past 2 weeks.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Shannon asked if anyone minds if the meeting is recorded for reporting purposes only, to be deleted after notes are completed. No one objected.

The meeting minutes from April were read and corrected to reflect that the camp does have liability insurance, but not property insurance. The amount of the liability insurance is \$2 million. Ed Bible moved for passage. The motion was seconded and passed by the board.

The July minutes were read. Frank said that he requested \$20,000 from the national office to pay for the mold abatement, which was granted. Osterneck is mold-free now. Between \$30,000 and \$40,000 has been spent this go-round. The Federation Center helped with giving \$10,000 for the mold. Several years ago, \$30,000 was spent; therefore, a grand total of \$80,000 has been spent to squash the mold issues at the camp. Frank stressed the need to follow up on the guidelines set forth by the mold repair company to keep this from happening in the future. After the discussion concerning the minutes concluded, Jennifer Bazer moved for adoption of the July minutes. The motion was seconded and passed by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Valerie read the statements from the last meeting from July 14, 2018. The accounts have the following closing balances.

Checking Account: \$2542.94

Endowment: \$5913.87

Children's Camp: \$5612.71

The report was moved for adoption by Jennifer Bazer. The motion was seconded and approved by the board.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Ed Bible

The mold issue has been totally resolved. There were 3 inspections for the mold. The reason the mold came back from the issues in 2013 was because the protocols that were recommended, were not followed at all. There was also a termite and a beetle problem in Osterneck. There is a termite bond now. There is some termite damage in Osterneck, but it still needs to be fixed. The beam that runs down the whole length of the building is badly damaged. Jimmy Masters did some work to get help with some of the damage, but much more needs to be done. There is a need for dehumidifiers under the buildings to help with protecting the pipes and winterizing the buildings.

Rocky Bottom Baptist Church and Jimmy Masters helped to work on the roofs of Osterneck, Oglesby, and the Conference Center. There is no property damage insurance to cover hail damage that could have paid for those repairs, if RBRCCB had it. The camp does have liability insurance in the amount of \$2 million.

The floors in the Conference Center kitchen and men's bathroom are another huge project. Barry Chavis and his cousin Travis Myers worked on the floors in the kitchen. The bathroom floors still need to be fixed. Travis has been hospitalized for several weeks, understandably delaying the work.

Moving forward, the priorities are to have the septic tanks pumped. There are 5-6 tanks throughout the camp at approximately \$600 each.

Phones: The 7575 number is kept as a copper line. It is best to keep at least one copper line, in the event of a power outage. The 9090 is a Voice Over IP line that is tied to the power. This will leave at least one phone line to give connection to the outside world.

RBRCCB Website:

Steve Cook, 1st Vice President of the Computer Science and Technology Division discussed www.rockybot.comofsc.org.

There have been many improvements to the site since April and July. The site describes the buildings, rates, amenities, photos, local attractions, etc. The pool can be used in exchange for monetary or in-kind donations. Steve Cook described the work that has gone into updating and improving the RBRCCB website. He asked for members and others who visit the site to give feedback on any recommendations, corrections, or other issues they notice. Ed asked about marketing for the site. He said he has had many people say they cannot find the RBRCCB website when they do a search. Ed also suggested that the CSTD find out how to get the site to come up when people search for lodging, retreats, campgrounds, etc. in the area. Jimmy Masters suggested that the sign on the main road for camp also read that there is overnight lodging available too, not just list the conference center as a feature of RBRCCB.

One area that is still being developed is to create a Facebook page for RBRCCB to help promote the projects and activities of the camp.

At the august state board meeting, Steve Cook asked about putting the minutes on the website, as other affiliates have done. This would exclude personnel content. Additionally, Frank would have to approve the minutes before they would be placed on the website. After consideration of the pros and cons of taking this action, the motion was moved for adoption by Jennifer Bazer, seconded, and approved by the board.

RBRCCB EVENTS:

National Senior Week:

The national senior week was held October 14-20 this year. Staff came from several other states and SC, including Ruth Sager, Tom and Linda Anderson of Kansas, Liz Lewis and Michael Hart from Brevard, Barry Chavis, JW and Orabell Smith, Christine filter (the nurse), Lenora Robertson, and Ellen Taylor.

Tom and Linda Anderson came in on Friday. They got acclimated to the layout of the grounds. . Sunday Ruth Sager arrived. Michael Hart, Christine Filter, Ora Bell Smith, and Jimmy Masters all got people from the airport to RBRCCB. The golf cart and van rental were a great help with getting people to and from their rooms. There
Breakfast was at 8 a.m. Classes began at 9. Ruth taught cooking
Liz and Tom taught braille. Frank taught mobility using sleep shades. . Shelley and Linda taught organizational skills. The students took a field trip to Chattooga Bell Farms Orchard. The orchard staff was receptive to the training going on with people being in sleep shades. The group went shopping at Ingles in Pickens. One of the people used AIRA, a subscription program that helps with a live rep who gives the user visual guidance. The man got help with picking out vegetables in the produce section. One night, there was a gathering at the fire pit. They had a marshmallow roast and made s'mores. Some people went fishing also. They watched an audio described movie. There was a seminar discussion group each day. To discuss the feelings and issues surrounding vision loss, blindness, and their feelings as it relates to their particular situation. The power went out overnight on Thursday, which presented a real-life challenge for teaching moments during the training week.

At the road beside the camp, there was a wreck on Tuesday, where a truck driver was killed. On Friday, a group went up to the wreck site and said prayers to bless the family. There were letters written to the family to let them know that the gentleman did not die alone.

Two people in attendance were Jewish. They shared a part of their faith with the others as they lit candles and observed the Sabbath.

There were nine states represented including Utah, Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan, NC, SC, Oklahoma, Florida, and Maryland.

Shelley also thanked Tiffany Mitchell for donating drinks to the senior week. She thanked others who may have helped directly and indirectly to make the week a success.

Children's Camp:

Children's camp will be June 9-15, 2019. It will traditionally be the 2nd week of June from here forward. This will keep other camps open for all campers.

Senior Camp:

No senior camps were held this year due to the mold issue in May and Hurricane Florence in September. The next camp will be held the 3rd week of May. The fall session will be held in October to allow for the senior retreat to be held in September. Frank named Shelley Coppel and Shannon Cook as co-chairs of senior camp to free him up for other projects.

Fundraising:

RBRCCB desperately needs more money. Frank stressed the need to dig in and get more funding for the camp. There have been several efforts such as Midlands Gives, which brought in \$1700 last year. Someone will check on Upstate Gives to see if RBRCCB can get in on those as well.

Midlands Gives is a 24-hour online fundraiser for multiple nonprofits. The organizations sign up and their info goes on the Midlands Gives website. Donors can choose which organizations to donate. There are incentives throughout the 24 hours for groups to boost the donations and get extra money in that process.

Other fundraising ideas included organizing a run for camp to raise money. Pam with Successful Transitions would try to schedule the run for April. They would also research getting sponsorships from eye care businesses, like Sandsbury. Another idea was to host a dinner and a silent auction. This would be targeted to businesses. Valerie is meeting with Pam to begin planning these ideas. Board members and others can ask Mungo Homes and other construction organizations for housing grants and improvement opportunities for the camp. The grants can be applied for after the first of the year.

David Houck suggested having a short video to promote the camp's programs to be used to help with fundraising efforts.

Valerie would like help with the planning of the fundraising. Ike Nelson, Shannon Cook, David Houck, Steve Cook, Linda Bible, Frank Coppel, Shelley Coppel, Ed Bible, Julie Bible, and Debra Canty all volunteered to be on a committee for planning purposes.

Fun Day:

The Fun Day Festival only raised \$3200 this year, but that was not bad considering that the plans for the weekend began about five weeks prior to the event. Linda Bible is meeting with a band on 12/14/18 to make plans for the Fun Day weekend in 2019.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held at the NFB of SC statewide seminar on 1/5/19 during the lunch break.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ed Bible closed the meeting with prayer.

Frank Coppel adjourned the meeting.

Minutes written and submitted by Shannon Cook, RBRCCB Secretary.