

CARROLL COUNTY FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

April 27, 2011

Flora Library

Draft

Present: Janet Ayres, Lynn Corson, Ann Brown, Beverly Seese, Dan McCain, Susan Scholl, Laura Walls, Al Jackson, Al Auffart

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved as amended.

The Treasurers report was distributed and approved.

The Chair introduced Beverly Seese. Beverly then updated the group on her role in adult education and where we are now in Carroll County with various programs. She noted that LARA in Tippecanoe County has been given responsibility to incorporate their programs into Carroll County. She reviewed some of the past efforts in Carroll County and noted that past successes were somewhat sporadic. As a result, LARA is taking over GED classes and trying to upgrade both classes and funding.

Beverly also led a discussion of past ESL efforts, including programs supported by Focus on the Future and programs held at IPC. Both efforts were partially successful but problems with each have led to the need to survey potential participants about interest, class scheduling and other practices to result in more productive results.

Beverly noted that current GED classes require both pre and post testing to insure progress is being made. She is also looking into expanding the program to inmates at the County jail. Both the ESL and jail GED classes are still being developed. GED classes are currently held in the old Delphi Armory. Current needs include acquisition of more computers and more flexible funding sources to reduce pre and post testing restrictions.

The Chair led a discussion of potential uses of remaining restricted Focus funds related to Cinco and ESL. A motion was made and passed to reallocate those funds to ESL programs run by CCAP assuming approval can be received for the diversion from the original donors.

The Chair also led a discussion of other education needs where certain agencies and groups could add value including such areas as financial education, basic homemaking, parenting, etc.

Lynn Corson updated the group on Savor Indiana plans, noting that filming is set to start around May 9 with the first broadcast expected around June 12. Lynn also noted that the I-65 signage project is ready to go. The City of Delphi will be the contractor and the city attorney is developing contracts with the installer, Carroll County Wabash and Erie Canal and the Delphi Preservation Society.

Lynn also noted that the next Festival and Events meeting will likely be scheduled for sometime in June.

Laura Walls reported that a Fort Wayne magazine did a nice spread on Carroll County as a destination for one day trips. She also updated the group on the Branding/Marketing efforts. An engagement agreement has been signed. First steps will be initial research, review of existing marketing agreements, and consultation with local groups to get input. She is looking for a Chairperson for the Branding committee.

Laura noted that funds are in place for the initial efforts up to and including presentation of eventual proposals to local communities. Funds for actual implementation are being pursued.

Laura reviewed local economic development activities and noted a scheduled luncheon on May 25 to update interested parties on current projects.

Al Jackson led a discussion on efforts to educate Focus members on township government issues, potential meetings among township government officials, and next steps necessary to sponsor community meetings to educate the public on the issues. He noted that two sessions would likely be necessary in the fall. The first would cover basics such as what township government is responsible for, current budgets, how administration is handled, etc. The second session would cover proposed changes, various alternatives, pluses and minuses of options, and opening the floor for public comments and questions. Specific planning for the fall events will start at the next Focus meeting in June.

The Chair led a review of the current Board membership list, recent resignations, and potential additions. A motion was made and passed to re-elect present officers to the same positions for another term. Motion passed.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for June 1, 2011 at 6:00 at Flora. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p. m.

Al Auffart
Secretary