

## THE CENTER OF ANNA MARIA ISLAND

*The Center is a Sec. 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.  
which will be celebrating its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary!*

### Board Meeting Minutes for December 5, 2023

In attendance: Chris Culhane, Kathy Morgan Johnson, Ben Webb (via Zoom), Christine Major Hicks, Don Purvis, Liz Hager, Sheila Fuse, Dan Anderson (Via Zoom) and Mark Short. Caroline Leibfried (AMI PTO)

Absent with excuse: Mike Thrasher, Jillian Ptak and Remi Drigan.

Call to Order at 5:33 pm. The November 2023 minutes were accepted by Christine Major Hicks, seconded by Sheila Fuse, and approved.

The Lester Family Funday took place on December 2, 2023, and was a resounding success. The event saw the sale of over 700 hamburgers by 2 pm. Children had a wonderful time visiting Santa, enjoying bounce houses, rides, and a captivating marching band performance. The Dance Here School also put on a performance to a packed audience on Friday. On November 10th, the Center hosted a well-attended Open House, featuring a BBQ and a performance by the Billy Rice Band. It is important to note that this event is not a fundraiser but a community outreach initiative.

Finance Treasurer Dan Anderson reported on the financial status of the organization. The financial figures for October showed a net loss of (\$116,069), an improvement from the prior year's loss of (\$169,297). The budget currently reflects a loss of (\$21,448). As of the end of October, there was \$272,096 in cash in the bank account. Chris Culhane mentioned that Concert and sponsorship funds are expected to come in soon. Fundraising efforts have yielded \$55,000 in the fall campaign. The Center's accountant is currently preparing the audit report. The installation of air conditioning units is expected to face an 8–10-week delay. The City of Anna Maria will be paying Air and Energy \$50,000 for the installation, and efforts are underway to secure unit donations from sponsors. The upcoming Giving Challenge will take place on April 9-10, a biennial event that raised \$75,000 in the previous edition.

Governance. Chair Liz Hager reported that the Governance Committee is working on establishing new requirements for board members and inviting new members.

Strategic Planning. No report.

Development. The annual report will be sent out soon. The finance committee will meet on Wednesday. It was noted that grant monies have been slow to come in.

Management Executive Director Chris Culhane reported that The Center's membership has grown by an average of 11%. The organization now boasts 396 annual memberships compared to 274 in 2021. Chris is organizing an employee Christmas Party at Top Golf this year and is currently in the process of hiring for an afterschool position. The Center currently employs 10 full-time staff members.

Event Calendar. Upcoming events on the calendar include the Concert Series featuring Simply Queen on December 9, 2023, which has already sold over 600 tickets. Additional performances include Al Croce (son of Jim Croce) on January 13, 2024, Foghat on January 25, 2024, Guess Who on February 23, 2024, and Al Jardine on April 6, 2024. The Murder Mystery Dinner Shows are scheduled for March 1 and March 2, 2024, with an American Idol theme. The AMI Garden Club will be hosting a fashion show on February 28th, and on March 23rd, the Wine Tasting Fundraiser will take place. This event has proven to be very successful, raising 10% more than the previous Tour of Homes fundraiser, with the added benefit of requiring fewer volunteers and easier setup.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm. The next board meeting is January 4<sup>th</sup>.