

COUNTY OF KENDALL, ILLINOIS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 4:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - The meeting was called to order at 4:00p.m. by County Board Chair Scott Gryder.

ROLL CALL

Board Member	Status	Arrived	Left Meeting
Amy Cesich	Absent		
Brian DeBolt	Yes		
Elizabeth Flowers	Absent		
Scott Gengler	Here		
Judy Gilmour	Here		
Scott Gryder	Here		
Matt Kellogg	Here		
Dan Koukol	Present		
Ruben Rodriguez	Here		
Robyn Vickers	Absent		

Others Present: Latreese Caldwell, Jennifer Karales, Scott Koeppel, Kelly Prestegaard, and Leslie Johnson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion by Member Rodriguez, second by Member Gengler. **With seven members present voting aye, the motion carried by a vote of 7-0.**

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2021 AND DECEMBER 30, 2021 MEETING MINUTES – Member Gilmour made a motion to forward the November 10, 2021 and December 30, 2021 Meeting Minutes to the County Board for approval, second by Member Gengler. **With seven members present voting aye, the motion carried by a vote of 7-0.**

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS

Facilities Management Department - Brian DeBolt – Facilities Management Committee Chair informed the committee that Mr. Smiley, Mr. Koeppel and he reviewed the Architect Needs Assessment Candidate applications and have narrowed them down from 10 applications to the top four candidates. They plan to have the top two candidates present at the next County Board meeting.

Animal Control Department - Kelly Prestegaard, Animal Control Director provided an update on the current kennel statistics including intakes of animals and animals currently ready for adoption, the status of current rabies tag sales, and the positive and collaborative employee and volunteer efforts in the daily operation of the facility. Ms. Prestegaard stated that they were excited to host a Volunteer Adoption event with reduced adoption fees from February 11–14, 2022. They hope to have other adoption events in the future.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK PRESENTATION – Hester Bury, Director of Corporate & Foundation Giving, explained the mission of NIFB, which starts by serving residents in 13 counties including Kendall County. The centers provide 250,000 meals per day, by bringing together manufacturers, local and corporate grocers, area farmers, corporations, foundations, and individuals who donate food and funding. Each week approximately 1,000 volunteers help to evaluate, repack, and distribute food. NIFB partners with more than 900 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and youth and senior feeding programs to provide nutritious food and resources. Distribution Centers are located in Geneva, Waukegan, Rockford and Joliet. Ms. Bury stated that NIFB received \$25,000 from the Kendall County American Rescue Plan Act Non-Profit Grant, which helped to provide over 741,000 meals in Kendall County.

Ms. Bury reported there has been a 21 percent increase in overall hunger since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, creating a 7.3 percent child food insecurity rate, and a 28 percent decrease in child meals provided. Now more than ever, the centers depend on partner agencies in each county for assistance in reaching everyone in need.

Ms. Bury was excited to announce that residents are now able to order food online, and request home delivery (Doordash) from all four centers. This option was a crucial addition of service to those in need and in the fight against hunger before and during the pandemic, and will continue in years to come.

CASA KENDALL COUNTY UPDATE – Jennifer Gilbert, Director introduced her five new employees for the program, and added that they were only able to hire new employees due to money raised in recent fundraisers. Ms. Gilbert explained that CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is a volunteer trained and supported by CASA staff to monitor the court cases of children ages 0-21 years, who have been classified as abused, neglected and/or dependent by the juvenile court system.

Ms. Gilbert stated Covid-19 has contributed to the continuing issues of Hunger, Transportation, Domestic Violence and Drug Abuse for parents and therefore for children in the past two years. CASA Kendall County statistics in 2019 were service to 58 children, that number more than doubled to service to 146 children in 2021.

Ms. Gilbert was excited to announce the possible purchase of a new facility in Yorkville that would allow safe and monitored parent/child visitation in a “home” environment. With the assistance of Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, CASA Kendall County applied for the federal Build Back Better program grant, and if qualified, would receive \$250,000 to purchase the house where families can cook together watch movies, play and learn healthy habits and create a better environment for all.

Ms. Gilbert invited the County Board to join them in their first ever “Hands Around the Clubhouse” event to raise awareness to child abuse and neglect in Kendall County, on Friday, April 1, 2022 at 12:15p.m. at the new location of 301 E. Van Emmon Street, Yorkville. Guest speakers include Kendall County State’s Attorney Eric Weis, Kendall County Sheriff Dwight Baird, and CASA Executive Director Jennifer Gilbert. Those interested in attending should RSVP to Nikki at Nosterich@co.kendall.il.us.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

- *Review of Updated American Rescue Plan Act Small Business Grant Agreement* – Mr. Koepfel reviewed the proposed changes to the verbiage in the ARPA Grant Agreement with the committee. **There was consensus by the committee to accept the proposed changes to the Grant Agreement.**
- *Review of American Rescue Plan Act Small Business Grant Applications* – Ms. Karales briefed the committee on the twenty applications which totaled \$436,398.25. Member Koukol made a motion to forward the applications to the County Board for final approval, second by Member DeBolt. **With seven members present voting aye, the motion carried by a vote of 7-0.**
- *Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act Small Business Grant Program* – Discussion of the current procedures of the grant program, the application portal, the response from non-profit organizations and small business owners to the grant program. There was also discussion about the number applicants, and the designated funds for each category of grants.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA – None

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Chairman Gryder reminded the committee that the Kendall County Fair Association continues their “Bottles Caps to Benches” fundraiser and collects plastic bottle caps and lids that will be recycled into benches for the Fairgrounds. Bottle Caps and Lids can be dropped off at the Fairgrounds on Wednesdays or by calling for an appointment. The County Office Building employees have a collection box on the first floor and take donations to the Fairgrounds on a routine basis.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Review of Executive Session Meeting Minutes was tabled until the March 10, 2022 meeting.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 15, 2022

Approval of American Rescue Plan Act Small Business Grant Program Applications

ADJOURNMENT – Member DeBolt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Rodriguez. **With seven members present voting aye, the meeting adjourned at 5:56p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Valarie McClain
Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary