

# A4TH Board Meeting September 19, 2020

Via Teleconference

Call to Order: 12:12PM

Attendance: Tim Mayer, President; Jim Hubbard, Secretary; Rick Chrabaszewski, Treasurer; George Kamps, Vice-President

Excused: Chad Weinbrecht

Acceptance of minutes last meeting December 21, 2019

## **President's Report:**

**Corona Virus Impact:** The COVID-19 virus and its surrounding circumstances with limited gatherings of people has resulted in the shutdown of our veterans' program at Chippewa Falls and suspension of the program at Vets Place Central in Milwaukee.

**Chippewa Falls program:** This program has been very difficult to fund because of the location in NW Wisconsin. Todd Hartwig who conducts all the sessions was never comfortable fundraising. The program was greatly affected by the loss of grant funding from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. Todd expressed concern over continuing because his girlfriend has a compromised immune system. After speaking with Todd Tim contacted the State of Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and officially ended the program. This was confirmed by a Department employee. There has been no further communications from the State.

**Vets Place Central program:** Our program which had been running for over seven years was suspended in mid-March. This program has also been difficult for A4TH to fund. Because of the distance to travel to Milwaukee, the challenges to funding the program and changes Tim's availability to travel to Milwaukee on a weekly basis, it is very unlikely that the program will resume. To date, there has been no contact from any staff at VPC requesting a resumption of the program.

**Salvation Army program:** This new program and partnership with the Salvation Army Fox-Cities involves Art as a Tool for Healing programming for homeless men and women served by the Salvation Army in mid-August. We observe social distancing and have been holding program sessions at Pierce Park in Appleton. We meet every other Thursday and have conducted three sessions so far. After a slow start we had twelve participants which included three social workers and one intern from UW-Oshkosh at the last session. The challenges are significant, with conducting a program outdoors in a city park which is heavily used, mask wearing with a highly at-risk population of adult men and women. Once again conducting sessions with mental health professionals and their clients, trying to provide guidance, coaching and direction to these vulnerable people, while taking care not to trend on the egos of their professional caretakers is involved. A4TH has received many compliments from the participants and from the Salvation Army staff involved.

**NEXT:** Expanding the program within the Salvation Army and maybe beyond is something we will be working on as there are other groups who may be interested in having this program work with people they work with. A program that involves the Salvation Army and its traditional work over the Christmas season is being explored. Finding a location that will work in these times of the COVID will be important going forward when outdoor venues won't work. Options for space are being explored. Valley Transit is being

contacted as to how they can be a partner providing transportation to participants.. Finding social workers who are willing to be present at future sessions will also be important. George's involvement is also being explored as we plot the go-forward actions to expand our program.

**Vice President's Report:**

George has participated in some programs and has experienced the sense that all those involved in this program have come to really appreciate it.

**Secretary's Report:**

Support of the President's fundraising efforts, grant applications and correspondence continue. Funding in 2020 has come from Pivot Rock Foundation, Augustine Trust, Irish Waters Golf Club, and two board members, Rollie Stephenson and Jim Hubbard. Moving forward there are on-going approaches being made to donor-directed funds at the Community Foundation of the Fox Valley and to the Foundation itself. The Green Bay Packers Foundation has indicated a grant is forthcoming but the amount is not known at this time, although we applied for \$5,000. Opportunities ahead include approach SECURA Insurance among others potential funders. Our fundraising approach needs to be sure that we are customizing our requests and supporting information to align with the target donors.

- \$500 donation was received from Irish Waters from their annual fundraiser for several groups. A4TH owed \$750 to Irish Waters for expenses from an earlier event for A4TH, so the donation amount may actually have been \$1,250 less the \$750.

**Treasurer's Report:**

As of 9.19.20: Checking Account had \$701.76 and Savings Account has \$5.01

- Bank Account has officially moved to BMO Harris and incurs a \$10 monthly admin fee
- A4TH applied for and received a PPP loan of \$7,900 with help from BMO. The reporting needed to gain forgiveness will be processed in combination with our bookkeeper Jackie and our accountant
- A Credit Card in A4TH's name with BMO was also obtained.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

1. Board Member Todd Hartwig's personal situation has changed and he officially resigned from the board this past week noting how much he appreciated working with the organization.
2. Rollie Stephenson also submitted his resignation from the board while expressing a desire to remain involved as an advisor.

On Motion by Jim Hubbard, seconded by Rick C, the board accepted these two resignations while expressing its appreciation for their contributions to A4TH during their tenure.

Adjournment: 1:38PM

**Jim Hubbard**

Jim Hubbard, Secretary