

8/8/2009 Tellico Village Computer Users Club

April 2, 2009 Special Board Meeting

3:00 PM Meeting called to order by Sharon Addison

Board Members Present: Sharon Addison, Dick Schmeling, Jan Schneck, Jim Peterson, Vince Alline, Bob Foster, Dennis Malcolm and Dean Miller

Also in attendance: Warren Sanders, John Jacobs and Rose Keilhacker

PURPOSE OF SPECIAL MEETING

President, Sharon Addison

- To review our opportunity to lease one-half of the available space under Catino's Restaurant for Technology Access Program (TAP) operations.
- The Community Church house currently being used by TAP, at no cost, will no longer be available when the Church is ready to begin its expansion program which has, so far, been delayed due to financing.
- The owner of Catino's space, Donna Akey, needs to know whether the Club will be taking the space or not. If not, she wants to market it to others. This appears to be our only alternative if we have to leave the Church house.
- The onus, then, is on TAP to raise the funds necessary to rent the space because the Computer Users Club has nowhere near enough money for the project. The question is, can TAP raise enough funds to continue with the giveaway program?

DISCUSSION

Treasurer, Dick Schmeling

- Passed out graphs and tables that he put together showing TAP income and expenses to date and estimates of future income and expenses, including equipment sales and monetary pledges received to date.
- According to Schmeling's estimates, the annual cost of renting the space is estimated at \$1,260 per month or approximately \$15,100 per year. The rent, insurance and internet are all at fixed rates. Utilities are not fixed and we have no real idea at this time what those might cost. Supplies such as paper, ink cartridges, etc. are a big item but can, to some degree, be controlled. For this calendar year, assuming we go into the space on July 1, the cost for 2009 would be about \$7,550. Schmeling believes the current TAP balance is sufficient to cover 10 months in the rental space.

Warren Sanders

- The Church Committees involved with the potential expansion are now meeting quarterly to look at the Church finances. We will never have more than a 90-day visibility. Their next meeting is scheduled for June 3. Our evacuation date, right now, is June 30, so we have 27 days to react. If we vote today not to move, we could be told on June 4, that we have to be out by the end of June. We could, of course, be told we can stay until the end of September. At some point in time, perhaps not in 2009 or even in 2010, but at some point we'll be told we have to get out of the house.
- The space at Catino's is our only reasonable alternative because if we mover further away, say Vonore or Madisonville, volunteerism would drop way off. The location has to be fairly convenient to maintain the hard workers that we have involved.

Vince Alline

- The space under Catino's would be far more suitable for the work that we're doing because the house is several rooms, all broken up so very crowded. The internet connections are very undependable because there are so many pieces to it. The wireless network is next door and there are routers and other connections. He spent about 35 hours over there last week and at least half of that time was spent getting the network up. A lot of time must be spent on the internet because they load hundreds of updates to Windows and installed programs on every computer.
- Foster asked why we don't get our own cable run into the house. Addison said there is no cable run to that building and it would be pretty expensive to get it run to the building.

Dean Miller

- There is the possibility that, even if the whole Church expansion program continues to be delayed, there could be a stop-gap measure to only slightly increase space there and that could result in the administrative offices being moved over to the house even without the major expansion going forth.

Sharon Addison

- It is important to realize that we have one organization here that has two different heads. One is TAP, which is a part of the Computer Club, and the other is the Computer Club which identifies computer users in Tellico Village and their computer needs. The financial situation between has kept the TAP funds specifically identified and segregated from the Club's operating funds. The Club is not in a position to take on any major financial risk. Since you have the TAP funds available to cover nearly a year of the rental space, if the Club did sign a one-year lease, the TAP Program would have the same problem when the lease comes up for renewal next year. If TAP doesn't have the funds at that time, the Club could not sign the lease because the Club is not able to cover the expense.

Warren Sanders

- Said that is exactly the reason he brought Rose Keilhacker and John Jacobs to this meeting.

Rose Keilhacker

- Stated that her dilemma is that she has been in the fund-raising business for years, but it was her job to raise amounts like \$300,000. When you talk about these relatively small amounts that you need, it feels so easy. One of the things we might do is have a testimonial or two at your May meeting. For example, we heard yesterday from a grandmother whose story was just incredible. We could present this kind of thing and tell the audience that we have to move our operation and we really need your support. We could have John sitting in the back with some pledge cards. Hopefully, we would have a big turnout in May.

John Jacobs

- You have such a wonderful program here. You're really helping people. You know how much you paid in property taxes where you came from and you know how much you're paying in property taxes here. The school system can't be that good with such low taxes. So you show people with testimonials what a great thing you're doing for the children in the community and get them to understand how important it is for you to continue.

Sharon Addison

- Even the libraries here are not as good. Most of them close at 5 PM and none are open on Sunday; many are not even open on Saturday. The kids get little opportunity to go there to use computers.

Warren Sanders

- Told the story of a woman came Tuesday to pick up a system we had for her. She's a woman in her 60's who is raising 5 grandchildren. The oldest is 15, the next about 12. She gets off work and then has to take 2 of the kids to the library to use the computer there because the teacher at their school won't allow them to turn in handwritten papers. She has to get a neighbor to stay with the other children because taking the little ones to the library just didn't work. She was absolutely ecstatic to get this system in her home so the kids won't have to go to the library almost every night.
- We have talked about getting some of these people who have donated money to come over some time when we're giving out these systems just to see what a moving experience it can be. These people are so very grateful and thankful that we're here to do this for them, it's incredibly rewarding. All of you are welcome to come over at any time and witness these events.

Rose Keilhacker

- Told a couple of success stories about her experiences with testimonials. She does not think raising \$15,000 annually can be difficult. John Jacobs heartily agreed. Both were very enthusiastic about the program and about the fund raising project.

Dick Schmeling

- Voiced his concern that this is not a very giving environment. What do we do after the 10 months we now have covered? Where do we go from here?

Jan Schneck

- Addressed the issue of presentation at the Club Meetings. We get usually only 30-40 attendants. Wouldn't it work better to go to all members and, in fact, all over the Village?

Dennis Malcolm

- Agreed that the average attendance at meetings is about 30. The record number is about 90. You have to advertise and present some kind of program that will draw a lot of people.

Warren Sanders

- We have about \$12,000 available in the TAP fund now and more in pledges for next year. We have a committee of Rose and John and Joyce Knouse and Ken Wood. We can get more for that committee if

TVCUC Special Board Meeting April 2, 2009

we need to. I've got a list of about 90 people who donated during my fall drive. What we need are 151 people to give us \$100 per year. We also sell systems; I sold one today.

Sharon Addison

- We don't have a motion yet, but I wouldn't want to vote unless you're comfortable with the idea that, at the end of a year, you're not able to get the numbers you need, it will really be in your hands then. You've obviously managed your funds well.

Rose Keilhacker

- We haven't even touched on some of the things we can do. We will put together a mission statement and a plan. We can put together a fantastic show, for example, with my son who has many wonderful contacts with high tech knowledge that could make a terrific presentation. The personal contact is extremely important.
- She commented on what a wonderful job Sanders has done with his own fund-raising efforts and his careful record keeping.
- She suggested bringing one of the kids to the bank that donated to tell the manager/staff how happy the child was with the system received. Next year the people at the bank will think of TAP for a donation because you've put a face in front of them.

Warren Sanders

- Has receipt for all the funds spent at Staples for supplies in the last year. He plans to take these around to supply stores and try to get a good discount on future supplies he buys.

Dick Schmeling

- Some of the terms in this lease haven't been worked out yet. For example, it says there will be a security deposit, but doesn't say how much the deposit must be. It also mentions an inspection process that needs to be clarified.

Warren Sanders

- Plans to take pictures of all the walls, floors, etc. so that any defects or problems will be apparent at the time of the lease signing. For example, there were some stains on the floor that we'll want pictures of.

Jim Peterson

- After a good deal of further discussion, **made a motion to commit to a one-year lease, to begin on July 1, 2009, subject to acceptable finalization of the full terms and conditions of the lease. Renewal of the lease is to be re-evaluated in approximately 10 months. The motion was seconded by Dean Miller. The Board unanimously approved.**

Warren Sanders

- Said that he, Addison, Schmeling and Alline will carefully go over the terms of the lease. Akey said that if we sign the lease, she would have no problem with Club members going in and setting up shelves and whatever needs to be done to make it fully suitable for our use.

Rose Keilhacker

- Will be gone all of next week, but plans to get started right away on the mission statement and more specific plans. Expects before year end they should have something put together to draw people and get funds before tax time. People will respond because TAP has a wonderful product. Near the end of the year is the best time to raise funds. People are in a Christian, giving spirit and they want the tax write off.

John Jacobs

- Feels they should start with a goal of raising 3 years worth of funding.

Considerable further discussion ensued regarding examples of how to gain the trust of people and get them to donate to causes.

MEETING ADJOURNED 4:40 P.M.

Janice Schneck
Secretary