

Board of Trustees Special Meeting for Red Feather Lakes Community Library

August 10, 2022

3:15 PM at POA

Present: Creed Kidd (Library Director), Darlene Kilpatrick (Programming Librarian), Sumukh Torgalkar, Bill Moxon, Spook Tipton, Julie Sauter, Bill Grindle, Pam Peterson (via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 3:24 PM.

The purpose of this meeting is to review the Library's relationship with the North 40 Mountain Alliance.

Sumukh began the meeting by asking Darlene to explain the relationship by highlighting four major points: the history of the North 40 Mountain Alliance, the progression of the library's involvement, her role and amount of time spent when the relationship began, and her current role and amount of time spent between the library and North 40.

After the Hyde Park Fire, the library was asked if they were willing to collaborate with what had been put together as the North 40 Mountain Alliance. This alliance was brought together to address a difficulty in communication during the Hyde Park Fire. John Parker from Girl Scouts and Lori Hodges from Emergency Management were instrumentally involved.

The effort was to involve Crystal Lakes, Glacier View, and Red Feather Lakes. Captains were designated and the goal was to bring the communities and their resources together. The Alliance had \$3,000 in the bank from grants and donations to address this and work with the county along with local fire departments.

The North 40 Mountain Alliance allowed for direct connection with the Office of Emergency Management. However, communication improved with the Forest Services and the Sheriff's Office which led to better impact in how it affects this community.

When COVID occurred, the pandemic drastically changed the impact and direction of the North 40. A food pantry was established and the county did not want to hold management over it so this was designated to North 40. The expectation was that the food pantry would operate for only a few months. However, the pandemic of course lasted longer than that, and North 40 was able to progress from just \$3,000 to \$100,000 in grant money and donations because their focus had now shifted to providing food to the community. As time has progressed, not only COVID but the economy and inflation have affected our community. 124 families now go to the food pantry on a weekly basis for their needs.

Darlene is the director of the North 40 Mountain Alliance. She supervises 6 people (2 interns) and 50 volunteers. The individuals are paid through the grants that North 40 receives. Darlene receives some earnings from North 40 grants but still makes less from that than the actual contractors. Some of her hours with North 40 are paid for by the library through our collaboration. North 40 Mountain Alliance was instrumental in the grant that led to the solar project for the library since the library is considered the information hub for the Alliance and the community. North 40 Mountain Alliance and the library are currently looked at as a co-sponsorship. The North 40 Mountain Alliance is instrumental in connecting people in our community to resources.

Following Darlene's explanation, Sumukh led with several questions. He asked about the differences between grant writing for North 40 as opposed to the library as Darlene serves in both functions. She explained it and that there are more North 40 grant opportunities simply related to the food pantry involvement. She was asked about her vision on the connection between the library and the North 40 Mountain Alliance. She said that she believed it was a co-sponsorship but that this developed because she was encouraged to not have the library hold responsibility over the North 40. However, Sumukh pointed out this was the crux of the issue given how much North 40 has developed and the nature of how it serves the community.

It is essential for the library board to come to the answer on this main question: is North 40 Mountain Alliance a library program and library responsibility or a co-sponsorship?

Creed provided the Memorandum of Understanding between the Library and North 40. However, this was a first draft last revised in 2018 that was not signed or approved by either party. As a result, there is no current MOU between the Library and North 40. This conversation provides us with the opportunity to engage with North 40 on a new MOU to provide clarity for both the Library, North 40, its respective boards, and the Library staff.

Creed mentioned the need for someone to be able to pick up the lack of hours that Darlene once provided to circulation. Due to the flexible nature of her position and the possibility that her library hours could be devoted to Outreach and North 40 in any given week, it leaves her previously central role at the library missing. As a result, this is why a need for an update and clarification to Darlene's job description is necessary.

Throughout the meeting, the Board and Creed agreed that Darlene's work is extremely valued by all and within the community. This discussion is not about changing her role in any way but rather ensuring clarity for her, the Library, and North 40 on everyone's respective duties in this relationship.

The next step is that the Board requested for Darlene to arrange for a meeting between John Parker, President of the North 40 Mountain Alliance, and the Board. We hope for it to be done in another in-person special meeting like this one soon. This will allow us to understand John's perspective on North 40's role and relationship with the library and allow for us to construct a new MOU which can be agreed upon between both respective boards. Additionally, the Policy Committee will take on looking at Darlene's job description and work on updating that as these discussions continue to ensure her job appropriately reflects her role with the Library.

The Board appreciates Darlene taking the time to explain this history and the circumstances that developed. It will better equip the Library to be supportive of her work, North 40 Mountain Alliance, and our community.

Meeting adjourned at 4:42 PM

Recorded by Sumukh Torgalkar