Underground Railroad Education Center Board Meeting May 17,2022

In attendance: Yvonne Abunaw, Brittany Beyus, Ron Gardner, David Hochfelder, Kai Marion, Mary Liz Stewart, and Paul Stewart

1. Ron Gardner called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM. Yvonne inquired if a quorum was present to conduct business. Paul suggested we would convene as a committee of the whole.
2. The April minutes were read and reviewed. Yvonne identified an error in the discussion of National Black Child Development Institute. David moved to approve the April minutes and Paul seconded. All approved.
3. Financials
   1. Paul presented a financial report of current account balances and explained the increase in net assets. The loan from Jerold Robinson to support exterior restoration construction costs while waiting for NYS reimbursement has been paid off.
   2. MaryLiz provided the monthly grant update. Funds from the Whalen grant will support the YALI Program. The Charles Touhey grant was extended through year end. Funds received from the Museum Association of NY will pay for Quickbooks and support fundraising activities.
4. ED Report
5. The February Funnies event is on hold due to COVID-19 and low ticket sales.
6. The Juneteenth Freedom Day Commemoration 2022 will be held at The Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence Campus on Saturday, June 18 from 12pm-4pm. The team working on the celebration includes an intern from the College of Saint Rose. Transportation between Central Avenue and The Residence is being arranged.
7. Applications are coming in and interviews are being conducted for the Deputy Director position.
8. Policy ideas for the YALI Summer Program are being developed to be submitted to Albany City Mayor, Kathy Sheehan.
9. The Partnership with Schenectady Community College for Anti-Racism Training will convene a meeting with academic Institutions, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders.
10. The chimney repair at 194 Livingston Avenue will begin in June. The repair work is estimated to cost $8,000.
11. Programming for the Adult Archaeology Camp is being developed. Matt Kirk offered to supervise and direct the dig at the Elkin lot. The camp may include digging, a historical discussion, and field trips to the NYS Archaeology Lab & the NYS Museum. The camp is tentatively scheduled for August 22-26, 2022. Lunch will be provided.
12. Committee Reports – No reports provided.
13. Old Business – Organic Farming Initiative
    1. Ron, MaryLiz and Paul will meet with Joan to move the initiative forward.
14. New Business
    1. Staff Re-organization vs. Mary Liz Stepping Down

No new developments to report. Paul suggested creating a new committee to recommend suggestions to the Board. The topic will be added to June meeting for discussion.

Attendees thanked Mary Liz and Paul for attending the meeting while on vacation.

1. Closing. Brittany moved, and Paul seconded the motion to close the meeting. All approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:09 PM. Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 21, 2022.