

Welcome & Review of Agenda

Lenae Marston

- Julie filled in for Lenae to first thank the attendees and volunteers.
- She shared that Jodi Mueller would first discuss the results that we have to date, for the Rhythm & Ribs Music Festival.
- Julie indicated that we hope this event serves as a cornerstone for our annual fund raising going into the future and that we have heard many positive comments from the community about how wonderfully the event turned out. She thanked everyone in the room for their involvement, letting them know an event like this would never be possible without all of them.
- Then next on the agenda will be Julie discussing where we stand with our second payment, then Gary to discuss the next fund raiser, and Michelle to wrap up with discussion about the levy.

Rhythm & Ribs Results

Jodi Mueller

- Jodi began by thanking everyone for their hard work on R&R.
- She emphasized the results are still preliminary as left over items are still being sold and final invoices being received.
- She further emphasized the amounts being shared are based on a combination of actual and estimated expenses, and actual and estimated revenues. The total expenses are currently estimated at about \$37,000, and the total revenues are currently estimated at about \$37,000. We anticipate when all is said and done, to have cleared somewhere around \$1,000.

- Jodi shared that while we all hoped to have this event be a larger source of fund raising this year, our hopes for the event went well beyond just the financial, and well beyond just this year. When the group of people who conceived of the North Fork Children's Foundation came together and discussed how to put a framework in place for the Foundation, they discussed a few main principles. The first of those principles was to establish an organization that would support our entire school community. The objectives we established of supporting extracurriculars, supporting intervention and improving community wellness, were to be met by bringing the community together to raise funds and provide services for the children in our district. We knew that in order to do this, we would need to start a strong, annual event that would be enjoyable for our community, and *beyond*. We wanted this event to bring together volunteers for a common purpose.... to support our school district. Rhythm & Ribs featured 10 great bands, nearly 2 dozen wonderful food and non-food vendors, a kid zone, a duck race, a beer garden, and a poker run. We attracted over a thousand visitors from all around the state, garnered interest on our web site from all over the country, and with the help of dozens of volunteers, we threw a party that we hope people talk about and anticipate, for next year, and for years to come!
- Jodi went on to say that in the coming weeks, committee members have taken note of many things we will do differently next year to improve our profitability and reduce our expenses. We know many first year events of this type do not break even. We also know that seasoned organizers told us we did not have

enough time to pull this off. Foundation members believed it was critical to get the event off the ground this year, so we could build upon it for the future. Given all this, we feel the event was very successful and will serve as a great opportunity for the Foundation to help meet its goals in the future.

- Finally, Jodi indicated that in November our committee will sit down and pour over the details of the first annual R&R. We will document our lessons learned, discuss areas that we should expand on to improve profitability, and areas we should eliminate to reduce expenses. Then, we will begin planning for next year. If you would like to join us, please e-mail or call Jodi.
- In addition to compiling the financial information, we are also in the process of compiling a list of people we should be formally thanking. If you know of people through your work on the committee, or in any other way, please e-mail Jodi and share their information. She concluded by thanking all of the committee members who have worked tirelessly on this event for the last 3 and ½ months. You helped put together a weekend that should have taken a year to put together. A follow up meeting has been scheduled for November 3rd.

Status of 2nd Payment for Extracurriculars Julie Van Wey

- As most of you already know, the district treasurer and finance committee, have worked with the Foundation to establish a payment plan to cover the \$300,000+ associated with extracurriculars.

- This payment plan consists of an initial payment already made to the board of \$104,000 in August, a second payment of just over \$100,000 to be made in November; and a third payment which will be calculated based upon actual expenses to date, to be paid in February.
- It is critical to make each payment to keep all remaining 2011-2012 school year extracurriculars in place. The November payment of approximately \$100,000 will be met with a combination of collected pay-to-participate fees, and funds raised through our next fund raising initiative. The anticipated fall, tier 1, 2 and 3 fees, will cover approximately \$50,000 of this payment. Most of those fees have already been collected and are in school accounts. So, during the month of October, we need to raise the additional \$50,000 through another fund raiser.
- In a moment, Gary will introduce the details of this fund raiser. It is definitely something we believe will bring in the necessary money to cover the remainder of the 2nd payment – IF, we get the participation we expect from the community.
- If we do not get the anticipated participation, we do have other contingencies. One option, we hope NOT to use, will be to rely on the funds pledged by the athletic and music booster organizations. We hope to leave these funds in place for two reasons – 1) we may need them for the 3rd payment; and 2) these organizations meet critical needs for the groups they support. We feel strongly these funds need to stay in place to continue to meet those needs.
- That is why we need your support for the upcoming fund raiser that Gary will speak about, and for the levy that Michelle will

discuss. We know that our ability to make these payments will hinge on the success of this next fund raiser, and that our ability to become the organization and school district we hope to become, will hinge on the passing of our levy in November.

- Julie went on to share how our businesses have been supportive, describing the receipt of another \$1,000 + check from the Brian and Jo Walters, owners of the Marathon Station through the Spirit Pump. If you haven't already done so, please stop by and thank Brian and Jo for their support! She thanked everyone for their hard work and asked them to support the next fund raiser.

Next Fund-Raiser

Gary Stradley

- Gary explained that each student would receive a letter, and 10 raffle tickets. The letter explains why we are doing the fund raiser, and asks each family in the district to support it.
- The raffle tickets will cost \$25, and offer 3 prizes, and incentives for top sellers. The prizes will consist of an iPad, a laptop computer and a flat screen tv. The incentives will be a \$50 gift card to each student in the 4 buildings who sells the most tickets, and to the staff member who sells the most tickets. There will also be a \$50 gift card for the home room who sells the most tickets. This card can be spent however the home room teacher, and their class, wishes to spend it. In addition the winning ticket seller will receive a \$25 gift card. The drawing will be held on October 31st, time and location tba.
- If just 20% of the students in our district sell their 10 tickets, our second payment will be achieved. Or put another way, if all students sell just 1 ticket our goal will be achieved. Of course, if

we can exceed this goal, we will apply funds collected beyond that amount, to our 3rd payment.

- We will ask the money for the tickets be returned by Friday, October 21st.
- Finally, if you would like to help sell raffle tickets, please stop at the table on your way out, and pick up the letter of explanation and as many tickets as you would like. We will also make additional tickets available in the office of each of our schools.
- Just as others mentioned earlier, you have been a part of creating a lasting, positive change in our district. Thank you for your participation and keep up the great work.

November Levy

Michelle Bricker

- Michelle added her thanks and congratulations, to all who helped get our first annual Rhythm & Ribs established.
- Michelle shared that it probably would have been far less expensive for all of us had the levy passed in May, than it has been to support all of the fund raisers! But, thankfully, lots of people **are** here supporting our kids. And, we hope you have been sharing with your neighbors, family and friends the importance of passing the next levy.
- You know how much effort has gone into just keeping a small line item in our overall district's budget alive - extracurricular activities. In a sense, we are fortunate that the circumstances have brought all of us together to create something lasting and positive in our district. The Foundation has not yet begun to address two thirds of the mission we've established – helping with

intervention needs, and improving the overall wellness of our district. And, it is unlikely we will be able to focus on these needs, until our district becomes financially stable. Unfortunately, it does not appear that will happen without the passage of our November levy.

- We know many families in our district are struggling and additional taxes will be hard to bare. But, we also know that if our school system is not healthy, greater financial hardships will plague us. Without a healthy school district, our property values will continue to decline, and our student's opportunities for advanced placement classes, and participation in extracurriculars, will continue to be diminished or eliminated. Tax payers who can afford to leave, will continue to do so. Our ratio of property owners to renters, will continue to decline, and the ability for the remaining tax payers to support a healthy district, will be further compromised.
- Michelle reminded that the community has begun good work with the start of the North Fork Children's Foundation. The passage of the levy in November, will enable that work to climb to the next level of achievement. It will enable the Foundation to move from a place of scrambling to keep programs alive, to a place of nurturing existing programs, and starting desperately needed new ones.
- Please educate yourself about the details of the levy and the need for our tax payers to pass it. If you need answers, please seek them out, so you can share facts with your friends and neighbors. Please support the levy, and thank you for supporting the North Fork Children's Foundation. Thanks to the meeting participants

for working so hard during the meeting to prepare the letters and tickets for the next fund raiser!