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**Minutes – Fund Development Committee Meeting**

**Date: August 17, 2021**

**Time:** 11:00am

**Place: Virtual – Zoom Meeting**

**Committee Members Present**: Rebecca Raymond, Ben Bishop, Cierra Colvin

**Committee Members** **Not Present:** Dana Hogan (Excused)

**Staff Present**: Traci Ross, Executive Director, Jennifer Frigolette, Outreach and Development Coordinator

Meeting called to order by Jennifer Frigolette at 11:01am

Topic to discuss: The L.E.A.P. Fundraiser is currently scheduled for Sunday, October 17, 2021, which is 9 weeks away. Should we proceed as planned?

Jennifer shared that SAIL has now mandated visitors be vaccinated and show vaccination card, L.E.A.P. is currently making decision on whether or not to attend Washington County Fair next week, whether to mandate vaccine, personal observation that the majority of people, including children that appear under 12 are not wearing masks in public settings and events like LARAC and the Great Escape.

Current COVID uptick in our area:

Washington County buildings returned to required masks regardless of vaccination status, County is currently in substantial category, as well as Rutland. Warren, Saratoga and Bennington all High. Recommended by Washington County pursuant to CDC that all people regardless of vaccination status wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas identified as substantial or high transmission, including all of Washington County.

3 cases of children under age 12 in Warren County last week

Delta variant causes more infections and is more contagious

Washington County residents 53% fully vaccinated, only 56% of population has received one dose

L.E.A.P. staff are not all vaccinated and many work with children too young to be vaccinated

Due to the format of the fundraiser (people walking around and standing with food and drink), indoor venue, intent to make it a family-friendly event with children doing trick roping demonstration it could pose a challenge. If we allowed only vaccinated attendees, that would disallow children under 12 years at this time. If we required that unvaccinated attendees wear a mask, who would be checking vaccination cards and enforcing that?

Traci shared a situation within the agency that demonstrates how one person could and has had negative ripple effects for others’ health, safety and even employment status, and the fact that she has been tasked with making these hard decisions throughout the pandemic. She doesn’t feel that it is appropriate to take the risk for a fundraiser in the way it was planned at this time. COVID has to change the way L.E.A.P. plans fundraisers now and for the foreseeable future.

Jennifer and Traci both expressed that they feel the best decision at this time is to cancel the fundraiser, and opened for questions/comments of committee members.

Cierra stated that she understands the situation, canceled her own personal travel plans do to the rapidly changing situation with COVID, and supports the decision to cancel at this time.

Ben stated that he feels that it is too early in general to cancel a typical fundraiser for October, but because of the specific examples shared by Traci and the fact that L.E.A.P. is working with children too young to be vaccinated, he understands the many concerns presented and would support the decision as well. He stated that he felt that the reasoning was well-laid out, specifically the timeline for giving vendors adequate notice, as well as the fact that the expenses and projected profit for the event was detailed on the agenda.

Ben stated that he has attended many golf tournament fundraisers and the attendees are spread out and outside, and suggested that L.E.A.P. revisit the idea of doing a fundraiser that is a golf tournament. Traci agreed that this could be considered, possibly even for the Fall, and would discuss with Jen at their update meeting.

Traci mentioned that she knows that Ben must be dealing with these challenging decisions in the context of his school Board position as well, and at Price Chopper / Market 32, and Becky mentioned that children have been affected locally; she believes that 2 children were hospitalized with the virus recently in Warren County. Traci thanked the members of the committee for everything they are doing, their time in attending the meeting and giving their feedback to L.E.A.P., as well as in their personal and professional lives and all the extra work and decisions they are making due to the pandemic.

No further questions or comments were brought up so it has been decided that the L.E.A.P. fundraiser planned for October 17, 2021 will be canceled.

Meeting concluded at 11:30am

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Frigolette