

**B.E.S.T.
General Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2017**

Jim Didonato called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM at the Round Lake Area Public Library.

Reports from Executive Committees

President – Jim welcomed the newly elected officers and committee chairs and reported that the new officers are transitioning smoothly.

Vice President – Wendy reported that she is in the process of transitioning and all is going smoothly.

Treasurer – Beginning balance for April was \$13,878.97. There were zero deposits and zero checks cashed leaving an end balance of \$13,878.97.

Secretary – The minutes were tabled as a result of an error found in the May meeting Minutes. May and June meeting minutes will be presented at the July meeting.

Reports from Standing Committees

By-Laws – Jim is seeking a replacement chair for the Bylaws committee. Interested individuals should contact Jim directly.

Membership – Sandra and Wendy reported that membership applications have been sent. Members and prospective members were asked to submit the applications and dues as soon as possible.

Public Awareness – The committee's goal for this year is to get more articles published to help spread awareness.

Grants Committee - Awards were made to the following grantees for May:

- WRLR (\$500) to help purchase an Emergency Alert System that relays weather, police, fire, and amber alerts on the station's airwaves.
- Round Lake Area Schools Early Education Center (\$500) to fund a school garden.
- RLB Civic and Cultural Arts Foundation (\$500) to support their smiling Saturday Stories through the fall and winter- this is their theatre program that brings professional actors to do classic folk tales in RLB.
- Calvary Presbyterian Church & U of I Extension (\$500) to support their summer learn and grow program, which is a program that helps 8th graders transition into the high school through gardening, cooking, and media messages.

The next grant application is due in August and can be found on the Best website. Everyone is encouraged to apply.

Reports from Special Committees

Kindergarten Readiness Committee - The Kindergarten Readiness Committee announced that they received their third grant from United Way of Lake County's Women's Leadership Council to support scholarships for the Round Lake Area Park District Preschool. The committee is also working on a program to help empower parents in families and communities.

Transportation - Georgeann Duberstein gave an overview of the Lake County Coordinated Transportation Council's (LCCTS) market research study and the recent resources put together from the Council for community members. Judy Armstrong put forth a motion to officially make BEST a member of LCCTS and Kathy seconded. Members of Best unanimously approved the motion to become a member of LCCTS.

Calendar - Jim reminded everyone that the community is available to promote local community events for free.

Dementia - The Dementia committee announced that they received a \$5,000 grant from Avon Township for education, awareness, and outreach. The committee will be holding a presentation for the Round Lake Area Chamber on June 15th to recruit individuals for training.

Chili Supper - Kathy Myers announced that advertising for the Chili Supper will be predominantly digital this year. The Chili Supper Committee will meet on June 19th.

New Business

Jim reviewed the BEST mission statement and service chart, outreach over the last year. He expressed the importance of BEST continuing to work to meet community needs. The executive committee will be surveying members to help build goals and plan for BEST in the next year.

Jim asked members for feedback on the benefits of BEST membership. Members stated the following benefits:

- Encouragement and motivation to fight for positive community change.
- Strength and awareness of our partnerships and how they help our organizations better serve the community.
- Insight into our community's issues and the people positioned to help solve them.
- Creating strategies to move forward and help fill gaps in service.
- Being a visionary organization that can act as a voice for the community.
- Helps the police focus on serving the community.

Feedback was also received about the primary function of BEST:

- Collecting data on needs in community to distribute to member organizations so that they can better serve the community.
- Changing the negative perception of Round Lake Area.
- Educating residents about all the Round Lake Area offers.
- Encouraging residents to be involved in the community.
- Conducting outreach to other communities about the positive things going on in the Round Lake area.

Jim indicated that subsequent meetings will have a larger networking aspect.

Various announcements were made from members.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of BEST will be July 13, 2017.