

## September 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 STRiVE Foundation Board Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Georgann Joufflas, Jim Simons, Cindy Willms, Karen Davis, Jeff Franklin, Nate Cook, Doug Sorter, Stan Orr, Sandra Weckerly, Nick Westfall

**Absent:** Kevin McChesney, Steve Grisier

**AGENDA ITEM 1 : *New Member Introduction & Announcements*** – Cindy started off the meeting by introducing our new Board member, Nick Westfall. Board members introduced themselves and shared their connection to STRiVE.

**AGENDA ITEM 2 : *What's New at STRiVE*** – Doug discussed the ongoing struggle to hire Direct Support Personnel despite raising the pay rate. He shared the impressive commitment of current staff to work whatever hours are needed to care for our individuals.

**AGENDA ITEM 3 : *Endowment Update*** – Doug reported that the Endowment Committee met with Kristin Lynch from Western Colorado Community Foundation. The committee decided to move forward with exploring the endowment through WCCF. The next step is to present to the Governing Board for approval. Doug and Cindy are meeting with Grant after the Foundation Board meeting to further discuss this next step.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 : *October 12<sup>th</sup> STRiVing for Success*** – Cindy made note that the date has changed from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> and the start time moved from 5:00 to 5:30. We discussed options for hosting and Jim offered Moody's. The Board agreed on the location. Sandra recommended having it catered by Nibbles & Sips. Sandra will get Cindy that contact. Once confirmed, Cindy will get an invitation created.

**AGENDA ITEM 5 : *Harvest Illuminated*** – Kayla Purdy from the Harvest Illuminated committee joined the meeting to give an update on the event and take questions. The three-day event will be at The Botanical Gardens the last weekend in October. We are partnering with Willy's Wild Carvings and last year's contestants from The Food Network's Outrageous Pumpkin contest to transform The Gardens into a Halloween Haven. There will be eight gigantic sculptures, carved from over 800 pumpkins, illuminated for guests to enjoy while strolling through the grounds. Carvers will be on stage doing demonstrations and creating pumpkin masterpieces for our silent auction. There will be some merchandise that glows for purchase. There will be four food trucks all three nights. Beer and wine will be available for purchase only on Saturday night. Cindy spoke to the revenue and expense. It costs \$13,000 up front for STRiVE to host the event. Over \$20,000 has been raised in sponsorship to cover that cost. We still have three sculptures that need sponsors for \$2500 each. Cindy asked the Board to like and share the events on their social media. Nick suggested that we pay to boost the posts. He explained that it is not very expensive, and that he has found it to be quite effective.

**AGENDA ITEM 6 : *Board Retreat and 2022 Meetings*** – Cindy asked the committee what they would like to see in terms of meeting times and days. She suggested doing a mixture of morning, lunch and evening meeting times. Nick explained that the morning timeframe is difficult for him because he sees patients in the morning. Jeff stated that the same day and week of the month works best. Stan commented on the need to develop a meeting plan for the January retreat. It was suggested to send out a survey using Survey Monkey prior to the retreat to determine Board member desires. Cindy will work on this.

**AGENDA ITEM 7 : *Notes from your Director*** – Cindy stated that all notes had been covered.

**AGENDA ITEM 8 : *Testimonial from The Gardens*** – We were treated to special guests from The Botanical Gardens. Chris and Jose joined us to share what they enjoy about working at STRiVE. Chris is a client of STRiVE and Jose is his Direct Support Person. It was inspiring to see first hand the work we are supporting!