

# **CIDSO Minutes – General Membership Meeting**

## **January 31, 2023 7:00 PM. – virtual via zoom link**

1. Call to Order at 7:05p by President Deb Presley.
2. Attendance – certify quorum (22 members as of 1/22/23, ) Deb declared a quorum present. Attendees: Deb Presley, Diane Crutcher, Kim Weber, Sandy Bauer, Wendy Boswell, Bill Crutcher, Melodee (Mel) (Peden) Sculfield. A brief introduction of all present occurred. Within discussion, Wendy provided information about moving out of state and losing benefit funds. It is now easier than in the past, for instance in Arkansas. Wendy understands this is true nationally. Diane wonders if it is still only some states.
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes
  - a. October 18, 2022 Approval of 10/18/2022 CIDSO Meeting Minutes were moved by Diane and seconded by Deb. The motion passed unanimously.
  - b. November 29, 2022 Approval of 11/29/22 CIDSO (Budget) Meeting Minutes was moved by Diane and seconded by Deb. The motion passed unanimously.
4. President's Report
  - a. Library (Story) Book Walk Update. Deb has met with the Normal Children's Librarian, Randy Sutter. This Walk is a series of weatherproof posters placed along a walking trail (for instance Constitution Trail or parks) that tell a story about a topic (ours would be Down syndrome). Randy and Deb talked about copyright laws and Deb learned that 'Big Books' pages work well on the posters. But the books we want to use do not come in Big Book format. Deb intends to purchase the book we targeted (see 10/18 Meeting Minutes) and try to make it work by adding some info to the posters, if there is support from this meeting to do so. Previously the Normal Library was looking to a Diversity/Disability Story Book walk that has morphed into an interactive scavenger hunt in June/summertime. The project is PR, not fundraising. We may put a volunteer opportunity to work on this scavenger hunt on our website depending on further discussion with the library. Deb is seeking feedback on committing to a Story Walk and the Scavenger Hunt, as we would still embrace this DS Story Walk for DS awareness month (Oct) or Buddy walk or both, provided they can be completed in time. When our Story Walk would be all put together, CIDSO will need approval from the town of Normal. Favoring comments were shared. Deb will move forward.
  - b. Renewal of Tax-Exempt Status. Deb has been gathering info for CIDSO's tax exempt renewal. The current tax exemption has mixed information as to contact, address, etc. Deb is seeking a more appropriate set of contact info for this renewal. It was determined that the: Contact would be Kim Weber, Treasurer; Mailing Address PO. BOX 595; Physical Address 200 W. North St. Box 595, Normal, IL 61761 (the Normal Post Office); Phone 309-452-3264 (CIDSO cell); Email Address 'CIDSOBusiness@gmail.com' as there have been repeated issues with the CIDSO 'info@cidso.org'. Deb will get these forms completed, run them by Kim, and then mailed off, and put it in the CIDSO Google Drive which will include the current by-laws and Articles of Incorporation.
  - c. Addition of physical address to P.O. Box address – see above
5. VP Report / IDDC Update
  - Diane has again updated and reviewed the website. She found the PayPal on the Donation link didn't work. Since then, it is believed a successful PayPal donation has come through. So Diane will check again. If the link doesn't work Diane's contact will be the person to fix it. Diane applauds Diane Walker's continual accurate and speedy attention with our website.

- IDDC communications are/will be shared with Executive Committee, those present at prior meetings and anyone requesting them. Wendy asked about getting the communications which were presented at previous meeting.
- Diane received a letter from the Chicago based PALS organization (which presented at one of our previous meetings). The letter says they want to link to send gifts to our people with Ds. Diane has concerns that this might be intrusive both on volunteer time but also giving out our member names/contact information. Yet she needs to reply to PALS. To our knowledge the actions identified at their presentation have not been addressed. Others expressed concerns about sharing any information about our families. It was suggested that Diane check with Shelley Marquis whose family (we think) has used PALS services. If Shelley has no other information to add, then our reply via Diane would be that we thank PALS for its work, and that we don't really have the ability to coordinate with PALS otherwise. After checking in with Shelley, Diane will notify the Executive Committee of the reply. **(SIDE NOTE 2.27.23: PALS is not the organization that Shelley has worked with so CIDSO has no relationship with them. Diane sent the suggested reply to PALS as noted above and we got a "thank you" response from PALS.)**

#### 6. Treasurer / VP Funds Administrator Report

Kim sent out financials today. The Balance Sheet Comparison - we are up from prior year due mostly to the Buddy Walk increase. Profit/loss is up because of COVID taking previous years down. The Enrichment Fund is up, again from COVID taking it down in previous year(s). The EF 2022 was for 12 families totally approximately \$19,600. But still we came in under budget in all other categories. The cell phone was renewed for another year.

{Discussion arose on Active Members, noted that the website does not directly state that those living in group homes, particularly those without family members who are not available to assume Active Membership, are granted Active membership on a case by case basis. As well, we do have some adults living in group homes who do have family available to fulfill Active Membership. And there are some adults who serve as self-advocates living in group homes who can fulfill the Active requirements themselves.}

Kim stated the CIDSO cell phone has been renewed for another year.

**a.** Number of families served by Enrichment Fund in 2022. See above – we had 12 families served in 2022.

**b.** Number of active families registered for 2023. There are 7 Active Member families.

Diane, Deb and Sandy thanked Kim and Shelley for all the work they do to maintain their duties. Diane offered to pay for the lost check fee from CIDSO for Mindie. Kim explained that was not necessary as Diane never received the check.

7. Secretary Report. Sandy inventoried the Thank You card supply. It is sufficient for now but will likely need reprinted before Buddy Walk 2023 Thank You's can be sent. When it gets closer to Buddy Walk, Sandy will prepare a uniform message for the self-advocates to hand write.

#### 8. Committee Reports.

**a.** Buddy Walk Report (Kim or Angela) Kim and Angela have discussed the date.

Looking at 9/9/23 or 9/23/23 to avoid competing with the St Jude Walk on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat.

Kim has reached out to Eastview on these dates.

**b.** Advocacy (Sandy) No report.

**c.** Social Media / Family Outreach / Social (Angela & Wendy) Wendy reported that January birthday cards are ready to go but because of bad weather, she has to wait to mail them. With 22 individual birthdays, probably won't need re-printing. But will need to purchase more \$10 gift cards. She has been using Dairy Queen gift cards frequently.

(Dairy Queen has gluten and lactose free items.) However, if anyone has gift card suggestions, please let Wendy know.

c. Birthday card outreach. See above.

d. New Parent (Kim or Angela) Angela is not present to report.

#### 9. Old Business

a. Updates to By-Laws and Critical Decision Matrix– (Wendy). Wendy would like these tasks to go back to the member at large (Bethany). It was recalled that the By-laws state maintaining By-laws are the responsibility of the member at large. After discussion, it was agreed that Wendy will stay on to get the By-laws and Critical Decision Matrix up to date from Diane’s last update (about 2 years ago) through this meeting. Diane will assist should Wendy need a hand as Diane did these tasks before Bethany came on the Executive Committee. An Executive Committee member will check in with Bethany about picking up these tasks here forward.

b. Interest in Library Display for 3/21? Volunteer? Previously discussed. See 4., item a..

c. Updates on fund raising / awareness events we know of. Angela is not present to discuss any updates. However, Amazon Smile was added to the Agenda at the beginning of the meeting. Wendy was inquiring if we are aware of Amazon Smile being discontinued, and that the State Farm ‘Good Neighbor’ program is undergoing changes concerning retirees and employees. CIDSO is not clear of the certainty of these Good Neighbor changes as nothing has been received from State Farm. CIDSO has received a letter from Amazon Smile stating the discontinuation of Amazon Smile.

#### 10. New Business: None

#### 11. Standing Business

a. Sharing resources that you use with your child that might help others.

b. Open question to families – How can CIDSO help you?

- How can I interest my sister in getting out and/or grow her circle of friends?
  - Described were: Online Bingo invites through Michelle Newbold on Wednesday afternoons - just email her for the link; Online Monday night ISU Redbird Readers for persons with Down syndrome – Kelli Appel administers this through the school year; Evergreen Racquet Club for pickleball on Tuesdays and tennis on Thursdays; Dance Factory Hip Hop and Tap classes on Fridays; Bloomington Parks and Recreation’s SOAR program; Seedling Encore Theater (contact Diane Walker); Nick Bolin’s Friends Gang organizes community activities and online movies; CIDSO hosts 3-5 social events each year – Angela Hedican arranges these. Currently a bowling event is being considered.
  - Some of these do have fees. Yet, CIDSO’s Enrichment Fund will cover 75% of these costs for Active members.
  - Some Transportation options include CIDSO parents, and Connect Transit’s (regular city buses) Connect Mobility buses (door to door) - yet buses may take up to a 30-minute window on both going and returning.
- If more, specific, or contact information is desired for any of these opportunities, please contact Diane.

Next meeting: April 20,2023 7pm Zoom. NOTE: This is a Thursday.

12. Adjourn. Diane moved adjournment at 8:23pm and it was seconded by Deb.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Bauer, CIDSO Secretary

Approved 4.20.23, seb