

MINUTES OF THE POA GENERAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

Grace Guess called the general meeting to order at 3:00 PM / Adjourn at 4:00 PM

Comments

- Make reservations for Going Away Party – Oct. 8 at the club (Grace Guess)
- City employees' lunch – Oct. 18 at the club (Grace Guess)
- City candidates' forum – Oct. 18 after general meeting (Guess)
- Renew membership now for 2018 (Debbie Curtis)

New board member recommendations – Ray Becker, nominating committee member

- Barbara Kobacker, Steve Mason, Diana Maus have agreed to serve
- No nominations from the floor

Food Bank of Northeast Georgia presentation

James Brim, director of the five-county mountain region that includes Rabun County, shared information about the Food Bank services. Their mission is to end hunger as part of an overall community effort to alleviate poverty.

The Food Bank is open to all registered 501c3 organizations that distribute food to limited resource individuals and families, such as mobile pantries and churches. Food is donated to headquarters in Athens by groceries, including BiLo, Publix, Sam's Club and Walmart. The NFL donates funds to this and other food banks around the nation.

Volunteers in Clayton sort the donations. Clayton has a teaching kitchen that teaches children and families to prepare healthful meals. Backpack lunches are provided to 975 limited resource children in the mountain region. Other programs include Cooking Matters, healthful meal preparation classes for limited resource families, and Food for Kids that provides weekend meals for limited resource children.

The Clayton location includes a warehouse that can contain 10 tractor-trailer truckloads of food, a freezer that can contain 4 tractor-trailer truckloads, a cooler that also can contain 4 tractor-trailer truckloads, and a first-of-its-kind Individually Quick Frozen line to freeze fresh produce. A commercial kitchen is under construction that will be available for individuals to rent at \$15/hour to produce specialty sauces or can produce.

Individuals can store personal food in the coolers and freezer if they lose power at home; 300 people in our 5-county region received free replacement food after their food spoiled when electricity was lost due to Hurricane Irma. On September 17, the Food Bank served free meals to 150 emergency crewmembers (firefighters, tree trimmers and electrical workers) cleaning up after the hurricane. The Clayton location also sent 2 truckloads of food to hurricane victims in Florida.

Sky Valley residents can help the Food Bank by making a cash donation or by volunteering. Honorary bricks are available for \$100 each. The Rabun Christian Ministries Church in Clayton partners with the Food Bank to deliver groceries to senior citizens. They also would appreciate cash donations or volunteers. Contact information is:

Food Bank 706-782-0780 www.foodbanknega.org / James Brim mtndirector@foodbanknega.org
Rabun Christian Ministries 706-490-0772

Adjourn at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Curtis, secretary