



**Oakridge Neighborhood
February 26, 2025 Board Meeting
7:30 am**

Hybrid meeting – Oakridge Neighborhood Board Room - 1401 Center Street Des Moines, IA

Board Attendance:

Diana Dubuisson; Carol Bodensteiner; Albert Farr; Sharon Gaddy-Hanna; Nalo Johnson; Emily LeMay;
Dr. Andrea McGuire;

Remote Attendance:

Kuuku Saah; Marcy Baker; Timothy Haight; Joyce McDanel; Deidre Williams; Mary Johnson; Erin Kuhl;
Skylar Mayberry-Mayes; PhD;

Absent:

Kent A. Kramer; Jamie Buelt; Jessica Feeney; Mark Wiltse;

Staff Attendance:

Deidre DeJear; Pat Palmer; Kristin Clayton; Kristin Littlejohn; Chris Irvine; John Spinks; Sheri Fitzpatrick;

I. Call to Order/Chairs Report

- a) Skylar Mayberry-Mayes called the meeting to order at 7:33 am. Due to work/travel conflicts, Skylar could not be attending in person, so Emily Lemay, Vice President will preside over the meeting.

II. Mission Moment

- a) Albert Farr shared his own family history to remind everyone how important it is to be sharing and living to leave a legacy in our communities here in central Iowa.

III. Consent Agenda Approval

- a) Tim Haight had a few requests of the Oakridge administrative staff on preparation of board packets
 - a. Send out packet the Friday before upcoming Wednesday Board meetings
 - b. Additional information provided in packet for any new or action items
 - c. Add all committee reports to packet for review

III. Emily presented the following items for approval:

- i. Board Meeting Minutes – December 2024
- ii. January 2025 Financials

Move: Carol Bodensteiner **Second:** Sharon Gaddy-Hanna **Status:** Passed

IV Finance Update

- a) Diana Dubuisson, Treasurer and chair of the Finance committee provided updates for the Housing audit reports
 - i. Clean audit and good reports
 - ii. No misstatements or noncompliance findings
- b) Finance committee to meet monthly
- c) Flourish Accounts
 - i. Offered through Foster Group
 - ii. Earns 4 % and is FDIC insured for the entire amount funded with no monthly fees and funds are available at any time
 - iii. No conflict of interest issues

Recommendation would be to close those operating reserve accounts at Bankers Trust and move those funds into Flourish accounts.

Move: Dr. Andrea McGuire **Second:** Albert Farr **Status:** Passed

IV Departmental Updates

- a) Marketing Update
 - a. Variety of communications to advertise Oak Academy openings
 - b. Legislative Day at the Capital set for March 18th from 2-4 pm
 - c. Publications, awards and advertisements in several different publications for Deidre, Oakridge and the Best Buy Teen Tech Center
 - d. Newsletter coverage
 - e. Strategic amplification by Board members and staff of the great publications through various personal social media platforms
 - f. Recalibration to what we do and then who we do it for; we get to love Oakridge no matter who we are serving.
 - b) Development Update
 - a. Grand total of \$3,096,424.18
 - i. Governmental grants – 42%
 - 1. Shared Visions, 21st Century and Wrap Around
 - 2. Stretching the goal to look for additional funding and still maintain the services we provide to the kids
 - a. Need to increase operating dollars
 - b. We have a great story to tell- We do it better for the diverse groups of people we serve
 - c. Renewed focus on top tier donors with honor and respect and thankfulness– sharing our story as well as the needs of Oakridge
 - b. Upcoming Events
 - i. Breakfast at Tiffany’s set for June 22nd at Willow on Grand
 - ii. Jazz, Jewels and Jeans will be in the fall- looking at October availability
 - iii. Ideas for pulling people together on the Oakridge campus
- c) Youth Update
 - a. Reporting
 - i. Receipt of data to provide reports covering a variety topics: student attendance, student behaviors and grades
 - ii. In school and out of school care for children

1. Serving 185 students, kindergarten through 12th grade at no cost
2. If the student is not in the classroom then the student is not learning
- iii. Conferences
 1. Connecting families with schools and communities
- iv. Youth Summer Employment
 1. 8 week program
 2. quality programming and internships to students from ages 14-24
- v. Summer programming - Summer Blast
 - a. 185 slots
 - b. ages Kindergarten -9th grade
 2. Oasis
 - a. Ages Kindergarten -5th grade
 3. Be Real
 - a. Middle school – high school
- d) Housing Department Updates
 - a. Fire Incident Update
 - i. 4 units affected
 - ii. Mitigation complete
 - iii. Discussion of mitigation and renters insurance
 - b. Outsourcing the cleaning of vacant units to improve turnaround time.
 - c. Upcoming Town Hall Saturday, March 29th
 - i. Focus on Parenting

V. Old Business

- a. All Staff Retreat
 - i. Held in January
 - ii. Positive staff feedback
- b. Committees Update on 2025 Meeting Times & Cadence
 - i. In process of final committee times and dates
 - ii. Staff involvement in committees
- c. Mainframe
 - i. Potential acquisition of land adjacent to the Variety Center
 - ii. Looking to June for proposal
- d. Board Member Recruitment –
 - i. Present slate of candidates at April Board Meeting

VII. Adjourn

- a) Meeting adjourned at 8:45 am to Closed Session for CEO 90 day Assessment

Please contact Sheri FitzPatrick at sfitzpatrick@oakridgeneighborhood.org if you have any questions, corrections, or additions to this document.