

## **The Frederick Center 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes 10-11-14, 10-11am**

The Frederick Center serves the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) community and its allies. The vision is to be the leading organization for LGBTQ resources and advocacy in central Maryland.

NOTE: This document is not formatted/edited for public distribution.

### **Board Members**

Brian Walker, Chair

Maureen Connors, Vice Chair, Marketing/Outreach Lead

Cindie Beach, Secretary, Youth Services Lead, Police Liaison

Peter Brehm, Treasurer, Pride representative for the Board (absent)

Rev. Dr. Robert Apgar-Taylor, Board Member, Religious Community Liaison (absent)

Katherine J. Jones, Board Member, Adult Service Lead

Steve Pippin, Board Member, Fund-raising/membership Lead

Austin Beach, Executive Director (absent)

### **Program Coordinators**

Espy Jordan, Youth Group (absent)

Adam DeBaugh, HIV Test Kit Distribution

Rev. Miller Hoffman, Trans\*/GNC Community Group (absent)

### **State of the Center Reports**

- 501(c)(3) status – IRS recognition received July, 2014 – Donations made since our incorporation in 4/2013 are retroactively deductible from taxes. This status provides additional opportunities for us. It now allows us to apply for grants and opens the door for other monetary opportunities, but also provides us a seat at the table with other organizations and government entities.
- Treasurer's Report –As of 1/1/2014, we had \$8,409.51 in the bank; as of 9/30/2014 we had \$17,659.40. Profit from all the various 2014 Pride activities/campaigns was about \$7,500. The rest of the increase came from numerous individual donations, from PFLAG to sponsor one week a month for the youth group, and donations via

the United Way. Our major expenses are programs and insurance. We anticipate our bank account will continue to build with the goal of eventually funding the securing of physical space for our center.

- Pride – Frederick Pride 2015 is 6/27/2015. Attendance for 2012 Pride was 300, 2013 Pride was 1000, and 2014 Pride was 3000. The Pride Ecumenical service attracted about 120 people. In 2015, Frederick Pride will once again be in Carroll Creek Park, downtown. We plan to keep the basic structure that we had in 2014, possibly adding an after-party and a film festival. Watch for a call for volunteers for 2015 planning toward the end of this year; your ideas and efforts determine the success and activities for Frederick Pride.
- Anti-bullying Initiative – Maureen Connors and Cindie Beach are our contribution to this multi-organizational effort to combat bullying in central Maryland schools. The effort is slow-going, but we hope it bears ongoing results. They are looking to implement anti-bullying workshops and more in the future, having just helped with Rachael's Challenge.
- Youth Group – Attendance consistently is about 20-30 youth. They have instituted a Youth Council to help with planning and leadership of activities, interject new ideas for topics/activities, and to create a long-term leadership pool. Meets every Wednesday at 25 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Frederick.
- Adult Services – Monthly Pink Drinks has been successful; the mini-film fest attracted about 15; the legal session on marriage rights/responsibilities attracted about 25. There are other seminar topics planned. We had a representative on the panel at the Contemporary Civil Rights Conference at Hood College in September.
- Peaceful Connections (Sexual Abuse Support Group) – We are in search of a new leader to continue the success of this group.
- Trans Variant Support Group – Restarted this group with new leader Rev. Miller Hoffman just after Pride. Attendance has been growing each month, members are settling into a mix of education and group interaction activities that suits their needs. Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the community rooms at Kemp Hall, 4 E Church St, Frederick.

- HIV Test Kit Distribution – Multiple partners have signed on to sponsor this program administered by The Frederick Center. We offer kits for a suggested donation of \$20. Available in our office at 25 East 2<sup>nd</sup> St (Frederick) on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, or as arranged otherwise.
- Frederick Police interaction – Cindie Beach coordinates/manages our great relationship with the Frederick City Police. We ran 4 LGBTQ sensitivity and awareness training sessions for cadets/officers to-date. We hope to forge a similar relationship with the Frederick County Sheriff's office in the future.
- Ally of the Year – Nominations are being accepted now; easy online form is on our website.

### Looking Forward

- Youth Services, Homelessness Initiative - There is an ambitious effort that has just begun to attack the current problem of LGBTQ youth homelessness. Along with a few citizens, and some local organizations, a formal project to get services to people in need is being put together. Watch for a call for volunteers once a basic structure for the group is set.
- Fund-raising/Membership – Steve Pippin is leading the group. One facet is to bring membership benefits for TFC. Including special events, membership privileges, and a back-end system to support tracking annual dues. Plus, he'll be setting up our grant application team. This team will be responsible for seeking monies for programs as they are rolled out, as well as creating presentations for organizations that may partner with us.
- Communications Coordinator – Maureen Connors is spearheading the effort to create a position within our center to focus on communication with the community, with our members, and with other organizations. We anticipate it will be an unpaid position staffed by volunteers/interns.
- Technology work – As our organization grows, so do our technology needs. We are converting to Google Apps, available free to us now that we are a 501(c)(3) organization. Look for our email to change

one last time to [thefrederickcenter.org](http://thefrederickcenter.org). We are moving to an entirely cloud-based set of systems to enable people to work/volunteer from anywhere with appropriate security and privacy needs met. Still in need of volunteers, watch for another message shortly.