



Minutes

HP Gives a Hoot Committee Meeting

1/19/22 7:30 Held over zoom conferencing

Meeting called by Michael Buchman, Chair

Type of meeting Regular Meeting

Attendees Michael Buchman, Kamara Russo, Tara Canavera, Marilyn Pruce

1. The meeting came to order at 8:35 pm on Zoom.
2. The finance report was reviewed. HP Gives a Hoot has a balance of \$17,215.39.

	11/17/2021	12/15/2021	1/19/2022*
Current Total Balance of the account:	25,730.19	24,407.25	28,459.95
Remaining Balance of the Fire Relief Fund*	5,321.00	5,321.00	5,321.00
Est Summer Camp (20 campers) for year**	0.00	0.00	6,400.00
Est Global Grace costs for year***	0	0	0
Less Mayor's Event donation	3000	3000	3000
Refund to Feeding Middlesex County	523.56	523.56	523.56
Available Gives a Hoot Fund	16,885.63	15,562.69	13,215.39
*Using the Fire Fund	22,206.63	20,883.69	18,536.39
**Excluding Summer Camp	16,885.63	15,562.69	19,615.39
***Excluding Global Grace	16,885.63	15,562.69	13,215.39
Available Gives a Hoot Fund (above)	16,885.63	15,562.69	13,215.39
Est Purchases (\$500/month)	1,000.00	500.00	6,000.00
Est end-or-year bal. (without donations)	15,885.63	15,062.69	7,215.39

*per account balance 1/10/22



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January figures show expected expenses for 2022 including \$6400 for camp scholarships (20 kids x \$320) and \$6000 for groceries (\$500/month x 12 months). If we are to end the year with enough for a full year's expenses (our standard buffer), we'll need to raise about \$5000 before our winter 2022 solicitation.

If we want to offer 30 camp scholarships (as we did last year with a special donation), we'll need to raise about \$8000.

3. **Food distribution** is running smoothly. Monica provided the Hoot "check register" as of 1/10/22. As of 1/19/22 we spent about \$460 in groceries in January and anticipate spending about \$250 more. (Three alternate week purchases in January.) We served 38 families two weeks ago and somewhat fewer during last Tuesday's freeze.
4. **Windows of Understanding Art for Hoot.** Robert Diken, artist and head of the Metuchen Arts Council, installed his Hoot art in the "Voices of 9/11" storefront on 85 Albany Street in New Brunswick. He shared photos of his work which have been forwarded to the committee. Thanks again to **John Marron** for leading Windows of Understanding and to **Robert! Diken**. Robert's description of his work follows:

ROBERT DIKEN

Ornate picture frames are filled with actual recycled cans and boxes of food typically distributed by *Highland Park Gives a Hoot* at the Teen Center by Ashton Burrell, Teen Center Coordinator.

The format adds an air of beauty and dignity to the work being done by these organizations and to those who receive the food as well. The words chosen for the piece were gleaned during my visit to the center and talking with Mike Buchman, Chair of Highland Park Gives a Hoot which provides food, sponsors summer camp scholarships, and promotes the program.

The center logos were appropriated from door hangers distributed to hundreds of local HP residences to notify them about the availability of their pantry services at the Zone 6 Teen Center, 600 Benner Street, Highland Park.

5. **Donor solicitation letter:** Letters were mailed in December and some were mailed in January.
6. **New Donations.** Deposits post in December through January 10 totaled \$4,172. These deposits were included in our balance reported in Item 1.
7. **Seeking New Potential Donors for a Second Mailing.** We anticipate spending about \$16,000 a year (\$500/month groceries x 12= **\$6000** + \$320 x 30 camp scholarships = **\$9600**). So we need another \$12,000 over the course of the year. By the end of the month, committee members may forward names and contact information of new potential donors to Kami (cc Mike) who will prepare a second mailing list. We'll revise the letter and mail in February.
8. **Flier Distribution. Marilyn** has shared the flier translated into Spanish and Chinese. Mike has forwarded the text in English and in translations to the committee. Members should forward approval or corrections this week. We will distribute through the schools and other channels. Distributing through the nurses in the each building and also including in general school emails was discussed.

Old Business:

9. **Web page and Facebook revision.** Monica has offer to post any changes to our online presence. Mike will make recommendations in January



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10. **Grant for storage units.** Monica has reminded Feeding Middlesex County to sign a “bill” to return the unspent balance of the \$2000 grant (523.57) per grant requirements. No response from them. Absent a signed “bill” by February, we will consult the Boro about simply incorporating these funds in our available balance.

New Business:

- 11. Mike Buchman and HP Gives a Hoot were recognized the MLK event in town. Mike was given the well-deserved Humanitarian Award.
- 12. Suggestions were made to hang flyers in Penstock and to reach out to Rutgers Graduate students who live in town.
- 13. Our next meeting will be via Zoom at 8:30 pm on the third Wednesday of February, 2/16/22.
- 14. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm

Action Item	Who	Due	Status
Contact schools/nurses to distribute flyer	Mike		
Send additional names for donor mailing	Everyone on the committee		

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Pruce
Secretary