Linn-Benton NFB Minutes – December 11, 2017

 Laughing Planet Café

Because of the complication of scheduling around the holidays, this last gathering of the year was a November/

December informal dinner meeting at Laughing Planet. Present were; Kristen Jocoms, Arona Rosegold; John Gardner, Carolyn Gardner, Lori Ritter, Jazzy Ritter, Sally Utt

We all found the food to our liking, and the staff were quite willing to put tables together for us, and turn down the music a bit too. We have considered having an early dinner meeting once a month, on a week night, so it looks like now we know what an early Monday night generally would be like

A lot of our discussion was about the Dark Café; things that went well, and areas that need improvement.

Carolyn has provided her notes on this topic below:

 `````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````

Thoughts about the Dark Café

Food:

Valley Catering was easy to work with and at a reasonable price

Everyone liked the food.

Suggestions:

* Check to see if the linens, place settings are complete and the glasses are clean.
* Salad was difficult for blind people or those with sleep shades – either serve in bowls or cut greens in smaller pieces.

Dining Room

The rectangular table setting felt much less crowded and also better for conversation.

Suggestions:

* Need to purchase battery operated candles for tables so the room could be darker and servers could still see.

Tour

Everyone liked the tour and the tour guides.

It worked better timing wise though it took Lynn and Carolyn monitoring and adjusting.

People giving the sessions complained that 15 minutes wasn't long enough

Reception

Worked much better having the table and the group organization.

Suggestions:

* Have a list of registered guests and if payment is needed.
* Perhaps we could have a welcome time where the guest who arrive on time could meet the NFB members and visit before the tours start. This would allow more groups to be completely formed before we start. Late people will just miss one station.

Volunteers

Again they were terrific and we couldn't have done the event without their help.

Suggestions:

* Before the event have a list of volunteer jobs with a time slot.
* Have a volunteer coordinator so there is clear communication
* There may need to be an orientation either in person or via telephone in advance so the volunteer feels comfortable in the role.

Sponsors

We improved the participation.

Suggestions:

* Start sooner asking for donations
* Don't forget about realtors

Pre-Registration

Suggestions

* The web site doesn't work well on iPhone. Perhaps we could have a more direct way of registering with PayPal.
* More advertisement of event.

`````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````

NEXT DARK CAFE

In planning our next Dark Café, we are thinking about gearing this one to families as a less expensive, kid friendly educational experience. We will be looking into possible venues for this, and Lori will speak with someone from NWABA, (Northwest Association of Blind Athletes) about the possibility of their involvement with some childrens’s actibities during this event.

TREASURER’S REPORT: (below are current treasurer’s notes from John)

The checking account balance is $4,225.04

 The current reckoning for the Dark Cafe is:

Net expenses 1053.20   (Note that $550 were offset by a $550 check from NFBO for the canes and sleep shades)

Total receipts 4156.40

Profit 3103.20

**There are still one or two bills outstanding, so this is not the final total.**

**NEXT MEETING**

 **We are tenetively planning to meet next on Thursday Jan 4, at John and Carolyn’s, for pizza and planning of our next Dark Café. The time for this has not yet been set.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Utt