

BYLAWS FOR BATAVIA INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY (BIFP) AND CLOTHES CLOSET

MISSION

The mission of the Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry (Pantry) and Clothes Closet (Closet) is to provide food, non-food household and personal items, and clothing to residents of Batavia and Batavia Township who are in need.

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

The Pantry and Closet together comprise a not-for-profit organization sponsored by various Batavia churches and the community at large. Its purpose is to provide food, non-food household and personal items, and clothing for those individuals and families residing in Batavia and Batavia Township who are in need. The Pantry's not-for-profit operations fall under the "The Federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act" of 1996 which clarifies that clients accept all donations with a clear understanding that they will hold harmless the Pantry, its directors, staff, volunteers, and suppliers.

BOARD OFFICERS, MEETINGS and VOTING

The Board, consisting of volunteer members, contributes their time and talent in different ways based on their abilities and experience and, if possible, are also encouraged to work at a variety of Pantry and Closet volunteer opportunities such as assisting clients, stocking, food drives, and warehouse deliveries. Each church in the city of Batavia and Batavia Township is welcome to send two members to Board meetings in a non-voting capacity. Each Board member is required to annually complete and sign the Conflict of Interest Policy by July 1.

Officers of this Board shall consist of: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. The Board shall elect a slate of officers annually. Major duties and responsibilities of Board Officers are as follows:

- A. Chairperson: shall, with the Executive Director of the Pantry, construct an agenda, distribute it along with the minutes, and conduct the monthly meeting. The chairperson's duties shall also include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - Be part of the interview team for a prospective Executive Director.
 - Work with the city of Batavia on facility issues, along with the Executive Director.
 - Create a temporary committee as needed.
- B. Vice Chairperson: shall fill in for Chairperson as needed and assist Executive Director as necessary.
- C. Treasurer: shall be responsible for keeping true and current records of all financial transactions of the Pantry and Closet and prepare and transmit required reports to regulatory agencies; shall prepare employee paychecks and be responsible for tax withholding forms and reporting; and shall report on all financial accounts at the monthly Board meetings. Should the Pantry and Closet ever become inactive or

dissolve, funds remaining in the bank accounts will be discussed and allocated by the Board for purposes of relief to persons in need in Batavia and Batavia Township.

- D. Secretary: shall maintain a roster of voter eligible Board Members and report it the State as required; record the minutes of each Board meeting and provide a copy to all active Board members
- E. Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall serve two year terms. Vice Chairman will then move to the Chairman's position. Secretary and Treasurers shall have no term limits and will serve for as long as they are able to fulfill their job. All terms subject to full Board approval.

Meetings, Voting and Issuance of Board Correspondence

The Board shall meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Pantry, unless other arrangements are made by the Board. Board correspondence is sent by the Chairperson to "active" member prior to the meeting. An active member is defined as those who have attended at least four Board meetings in the previous six (6) months. If a Board member is absent for six consecutive months, they are considered "inactive" unless or until they resume attendance. Inactive board members will not receive board correspondence/monthly emails until they resume attendance. Motions voted upon shall be decided by a majority vote of those eligible voting members present. Only active board members shall be eligible to vote. A minimum of two-thirds eligible voting Board members is required to enact official business. Attendance via ZOOM is acceptable and, if necessary for essence of time, email voting is acceptable. The Chairperson will only vote to break a tie. Employees of the Pantry and Closet may provide input to Board decisions, but are not eligible to vote.

Standing Committee Structure: There will be four main standing committees. The Committee Chairperson, and the number of committee members requested by the Chair, will be selected by the Board annually. Each committee shall include active board members. The activities of the Chair and committees will be undertaken to meet the procedures, objectives and goals established by the Board.

A. Human Resources (HR) committee:

- 1. Develops and maintains Lists of Duties, Job Description of the Executive Director, Performance Appraisal Plans, and Offer-of-Employment Letters, as needed.
 - a. Reviews qualifications of candidates for open positions with the Executive Director and selects individuals for interviews.
 - b. The Executive Director will interview and hire non-Director level staff with assistance from HR if needed.
 - c. The top two candidates identified by HR for open Executive Director positions may, following a committee vote, be introduced by an HR committee member to a select group of active Pantry/Closet volunteers and staff (possibly up to ten individuals).

There could then be a session of questions and answers and a tour of the facilities. Based on these interactions, this group could choose to provide to HR its impressions of both candidates and, based on a consensus vote, express to HR its preferred candidate and provide written reasons why. This information would be considered by HR prior to that committee's decision to recommend one candidate to the Board for final hiring approval.

2. Conducts annual review of the Executive Director by June 1. Confirms that Executive Director conducted reviews of Director (Closet), Assistant Director and Staff and provides a summary to HR committee.
 3. HR Committee presents a slate of Officer candidates at the June meeting.
 4. The HR committee will be available for any questions at any time during the fiscal year from employees and the Board.
- B. Marketing and Promotions committee, in cooperation with Executive Director:
1. Schedules and coordinates fund-raising events.
 2. Promotes Pantry and Closet in cooperation with the Executive Director.
- C. Operations committee, in cooperation with Executive Director:
- A. The Executive Director will maintain the equipment, vehicle, and building with any needed help from this committee or the board as a whole.
 - B. Work with the employees and volunteers to maintain the safest environment possible.
- D. Finance Committee
1. Review emergency fund needs for pantry and ensure at least 6-8 months of operating capital.
 2. Approve any purchase over \$5,000 that comes directly out of the Pantry's own checking or savings account with Executive Director and report to Board at next meeting.
 3. Review current investment accounts to ensure term and interest rates meet current pantry goal and timelines.

EMPLOYEES OF PANTRY AND CLOSET

Paid employees consist of the Executive Director, Director (Closet), Assistant Director and designated Staff. Copies of all employment contracts shall be kept in the files of the Executive Director. Compensation for these positions will be either a fixed salary or an hourly wage, based on whether the individual position is defined as “exempt” or “non-exempt,” per Human Resource guidance and regulations. Compensation will be determined at the time of hire and reevaluated by June 1 at the time of the annual employment review. Raises and annual evaluations will be discussed at the June Board meeting. Employment for all employees shall be “at will”, which means that the Board or the employee may terminate the employment for any reason, at any time, with or without cause. Employment will be continued based on need, performance, and desire of the employees who currently hold the positions.

The Executive Director will be given a yearly review based on the performance of their assigned duties. The HR Committee will perform this review utilizing the current list of duties as a basis for the review and will recommend an appropriate raise for all employees to the Board for approval.

The Executive Director supervises the Director (Closet), Assistant Director and the Staff, evaluates their job performance annually and keeps copies of employment contracts. The results of these reviews will be provided to the HR Committee. If there is a problem with employee performance, the issue will be discussed and further action taken as necessary, with the Board guidance, if necessary. While the Executive Director can interview prospective candidates for Pantry positions, they cannot create more hours or eliminate or create a position without HR and Board approval.

The Executive Director is responsible for the overall collection and distribution of food and non-food items (including any needed supplies from the Northern Illinois Food Bank). The Executive Director shall arrange for a qualified person or agency to conduct an annual review or audit (by December 1) of the accounts and records from the previous year with the Board’s approval of auditor. The Executive Director also ensures and completes accurate records for Community Service workers and submits those to appropriate county courts and police departments. The Executive Director shall supervise the written acknowledgement of donations. The Executive Director shall be responsible for generating job descriptions for the Director (Closet), Assistant Director(s) and the Staff. The Executive Director assists the Chairperson in creating an agenda for the monthly Board meetings. An appointed worker or volunteer shall act in the absence of the Executive Director when volunteers, clients or community workers are present.

CLIENT POLICY

Only residents of the City of Batavia and Batavia Township shall be eligible to be served by the Pantry and Closet. Eligibility shall be determined by an annual certification using picture ID and proof of residence. Certification is for use of both Pantry and Closet.

Clients of the Pantry will receive food and non-food household and personal items once a month, and clearance items as available. Clients will have access to the services offered by the Clothes Closet twice a month. A household will receive one order regardless of how many

families reside at that location. A household is defined as a dwelling with a kitchen. Exceptions in such cases as homelessness, emergency situations and multi-families in one home will be made by the Executive Director or their designee.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rules of Procedure for day-to-day operations of the Pantry and Closet may be formulated and administered by the Executive Director to aid the work of the Pantry and Closet. These rules shall be in concert with these Bylaws. These standard operating procedures could be combined into a Procedures Manual that would serve workers and volunteers well in the absence of the Executive Director or the Director (Closet). They could also be useful in training new volunteers in tasks such as entering client data into the computer system and in generating end-of-day reports.

GENERAL

A copy will be at the Pantry per request and on the BIFP website.

These Bylaws will be reviewed every two years by a Board Chairperson-elected committee of at least three Board members. Any proposed changes to the Bylaws will be approved by a two-thirds vote of eligible members at a Board meeting.

Revised: May 14, 2024

Approved: June 11, 2024