

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

April 18, 2016, 7:00PM, Sunroom

Present: Becca Wemhoff, Mary Ross, Julie Haas, Deacon Ron Smith, Carol Cornelius, Doreen Berg, Linnea Dolan, Sarah Swanson, Marlene Weishaar, JoAnne Dalhoff, Barb Moore, Cynthia Shriver, Tim Gartin

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

I. SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE

- A. Call to Order – Mary called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
- B. Opening prayer – Deacon Ron led the opening prayer.
- C. Welcome, introductions. Carol Cornelius and Linnae Dolan were introduced, as well as our guest speaker, Tim Gartin. Tim is a city council member who is very interested in a variety of social justice issues. Tim spoke of several topics including the need for low cost housing in Ames, the availability of foster homes, and combining the secular prospective with faith communities in addressing and solving issues. He suggested several books, *A Path Appears* by Nicolas Kristof and Sheryll WoDunn and *Our Kids* by Robert Putman.

II. BUSINESS MEETING

- A. **The March minutes were approved by consensus.**

- B. Correspondence

Thank you notes:

- MICA- for \$150 Dental Clinic donation
- Bethesda – First Grade Class donated \$30 cash plus 325-350 pounds of food
- Ames Ecumenical Housing - for \$250.

Invitation: Center for Creative Justice: French Toast Dinner on April 19, 5-7PM, First Baptist Church

- C. New business

1. Sudan Orphanage. A request for financial assistance for setting up an orphanage in Sudan was discussed. It is a work in progress and we will need more information as the project becomes closer to fruition.

- D. Unfinished business

1. Housing Conference – Doreen, Julie, Sarah, and Cynthia attended the Housing Conference sponsored by AMOA, ISU, and the City. Doreen reported that from her break out session, she learned that there are many incentives (federal and state) for building low cost housing. Some state land trust grants require matching funds. Citizens need to tell the city what they want. Cynthia stated that transportation and housing (another break out session) are key for allowing individuals to keep their jobs. By necessity, Danfoss routinely recruits their floor workers from outside of Ames. Transportation becomes a serious stumbling block for good attendance because of weather conditions, cost and frequency of car repairs, and lack of bus transportation for round the clock shifts. The conclusion is that people need low cost housing and good transportation to become reliable employees.
2. Request from by Fr. Jon Seda from St. Thomas and Fr. Ken Glaser from St. Stephen the Witness Student Center at UNI. Mary received a detail account from Father Glaser outlining the kinds of social justice projects the college students participate in. **By consensus, the committee agreed to donate \$500.00 to the Witness Student Center at UNI for social justice student service projects.** The money will come from St. Cecilia's Youth Missions. We will ask that the money be used specifically for social justice student service projects. We are waiting for a reply from Father Seda. Father Secora suggested that we should start conversations with the SJ Committees of St. Thomas. It was suggested that we start sharing minutes and budgets. Doreen offered to attend one of STA's SJ committee meetings.
3. Klingseis estate. No action.
4. Sister Parish. No action.
5. Home for Awhile – Mary
6. Days for Girls – Mary reported that we have enough supplies/support to finish out the fiscal year. 633 kits have been made to date. Carol will be traveling to South Africa in September.
7. Need board members or representatives for AMOS, Home for Awhile
8. Pastoral Council – Sarah reported that the council is primarily involved on working with the future building plans. Projects in order of priority are: a) build a small parlor room on the NE side of the Narthex, b) combine the offices and staff of the church and school c) renovate the parish offices for more meeting rooms, d) renovate (limited) the worship space. The money for the project will need to be raised and new estimates

will be required.

9. Financial reports – Becca. Monetary Receipts: \$3,551.20, Estimated Value of Food Shelf Contributions: \$467.20, Disbursements: \$4,269.05, Bank Balance as of March 31, 2016: \$84,651.34, Discretionary Funds Available: \$5,098.33, March FAF budget balance to be paid to FAF in April: \$278.63. April's Special Allocations: \$50.00 – AMOS, \$250.00-Boys and Girls Club (Sarah will talk with Erica about earmarking the donation.), \$275.00-Appalchia Committee (Mary will ask Lynn about the status of the organization.). Becca reminded us that the new fiscal year begins in July. Mary asked that any requests for additional funding for present organizations and funding for new organizations be sent to her and Becca in writing.
 10. Committee reports:
 - a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation: **292** pounds in March. *April 16/17 – Chuck Habing; May 21/22 – Keith & Linda Huls* Due to a decrease in donations, Mary spoke to Bob about placing the cart in a more prominent position. Bob agreed. MICA requested ramen noodles.
 - b. Hunger Coalition – Marlene. The plan to interview food pantries in the county continues to be implemented.
 - c. Food at First –Doreen. Numbers at the Free Market are up.
 - d. Good Neighbor – Phyllis. GN will have a fund raiser on Saturday, April 30, from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM at Dublin Bay.
 - e. Restorative Justice - Barb. All is going smoothly at the Butterfly House and the Story County jail. St. Cecilia School raised money to purchase books for the prisoners.
 - f. Individual Assistance – Ron can meet some of the needs of individuals but cannot meet all of them due to a lack of funds. He is receiving more requests for significant car repairs. He has managed to find a donor to address this.
 - g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie. A search for a replacement for Vic is being conducted. Julie asked for suggestions for where to place the job description since the DMR is very expensive. A job description is in place. The basement apartments are almost finished. They are primarily used for overflow. The four transition housing units are currently vacant (but not for long).
 - h. AMOS. Still need representative.
 - i. Gabriel Project – Bethany. No report.
 - j. Sanctity of Life – Garland. Highlights of the April 9 meeting are, I. Informed Choices of Ames will sponsor a fundraiser walk and pancake breakfast on June 4 at Brookside Park, II. An interview with TriState Radio in Dubuque was played. The Ames area Gabriel Project was credited for motivating the Dubuque project. III. A Rachel's Vineyard retreat is being planned in Hiawatha. IV. The importance of petitioning our doctors to encourage them to resist the assisted suicide agenda that is expected to return to the state legislature next year was reviewed.
 - k. Additional issues. I. Cynthia reported that \$2,538.64 was raised for CRS Rice Bowl. ~\$500.00 was raised by ST. Cecilia School students. The amount is down from last year. II. If anyone has topics for the May newsletter please send them to Lynn or Mary.
- D. Prayer/Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM with a prayer.