

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

March 20, 2017, 7:00PM, Oscar Romero Room

Present: Mary Ross, Julie Haas, Doreen Berg, Sarah Swanson, Jarrett Wendt, Deacon Ron joined the group in session. Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE

- A. Call to Order – Mary called the meeting to order at 7PM.
- B. Opening prayer-Prayer of St. Patrick
- C. Welcome, introductions -None

BUSINESS MEETING

- A. February minutes- Minutes approved by consensus.
- B. Thank you notes from Birthright and ACCESS.
- C. New business-None

D. Unfinished business

1. Respect Life and Social Justice Formation: March 28 – End of Life Care & Awareness.
dbqarch.org/rlsj/formation.
<https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/respect-life/respect-life-and-social-justice-formation-for-all/>
2. Individual Assistance (IA) guidelines. a. There was a discussion regarding individual assistance. It was proposed that there be a line item in the parish's budget for IA. The SJ committee would donate \$400.00 per month to the line and that money will be subject to the application form and guidelines agreed upon by the committee. Mary passed around a sample of guidelines she modified from a model document and more changes were made by the committee. She asked that we send any other corrections/suggestions to her via email. She will send committee members the application form which was reviewed at a previous meeting. The SJ Committee anticipates having the system in place starting July 1, 2017.
3. Klingseis estate. A dedication will be held for the ground breaking of the new Friendship Ark home. The purchase of the land was partially funded by the \$50,000.00 donation the SJ committee made from the Klingseis estate. The ceremony will be held on March 31 at 4 PM at 5320 Westfield Road.
4. Honduras Coffee sales. The parish office is looking for someone to coordinate St. Cecilia's collaboration efforts with STA to sell after weekend Masses coffee grown in Honduras. This is an established project at STA. If interested, please contact Char.
5. Pictorial Directory. For the new pictorial directory, each committee is encouraged to submit group picture. Bill Haas has agreed to take the picture of our committee. Thank you, Bill.
6. Need board member or representatives for AMOS.
7. Pastoral Council. Sarah reported that the next step in the building plan is facilities. No architectural plan has been approved. We were reminded that the repair of the roof is urgently needed.
8. Financial reports – Becca. Monetary Receipts: \$3,771.55, Estimated Value of Food Shelf Contributions: \$616.80, Disbursements: \$4,428.45, Bank Balance as of February 28, 2017: \$81,238.63, Discretionary Funds Available: \$4,054.26, February FAF budget balance to be paid to FAF in March: \$259.37. March's Special Allocations: \$275.00 Catholic Charities, \$250.00 – Ames Ecumenical Housing, \$50.00-AMOS,
9. Parishioner's Assistance-Jarrett and Sarah. a. Father Jim would like a proposal in writing. It is a work in progress. b. A Hispanic Leadership Committee is being formed. c. The parish is planning an immigration event in April in the Social Hall. It will be conducted in Spanish and ~200 attendees are expected. More information will follow.
10. Committee reports:

- a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation: **400 pounds** in January; **385.5 pounds** in February; *March 18/19 – Chuck Habing; April 15/16 – Tom & Dorothy Sally* We will begin to pass the black bag at the 5:30 PM Sunday Mass.
- b. Hunger Collaboration – Doreen. The meeting was attended by Doreen and they are encouraging anyone with unused garden space to donate it to their group. Please contact Doreen if you have space.
- c. Food at First –Doreen. At the last meeting, the by-laws and articles of incorporation were presented to the Board. The status of Patty Yoder, the director of FAF, has been changed from individual contractor to employee.
- d. Good Neighbor – Phyllis. St. Cecilia will be one of two faith groups that will be honored at the 20th year anniversary celebration of Good Neighbor. The event is on April 29 at 3:30 PM at City Church of Ames – Des Moines, 2400 Oakwood Road, Ames. Deacon Ron will accept the award.
- e. Restorative Justice - Barb (report). The Butterfly House has a new house mother, Ruth Bonett. Currently there are two residents. Attendance at Saturday morning services at Story County Jail continue to go up and down and the program will continue.
- f. Individual Assistance. Ron continues to help the individual who is waiting to be approved for disability assistance. Ron said that he has started to use the proposed application and has submitted a couple of requests for rent assistance.
- g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie shared highlights from the Director’s report. I. The shelter continues to average 4-5 hotel rooms a night. II. The 3rd bedroom upstairs is scheduled to be refurbished starting April 5. III. There will be volunteers at ERP during Greek Week and they will be repainting the playroom area and the staff’s sleeping area. IV. A grant for \$1,000 was submitted to Rotary for the bathroom remodel and Carrie Dunnwald (Director) is also working on a Social Justice Grant from STA. V. Carrie submitted a Letter of Intent for the United Way Community Impact grant for \$10,000 to go towards the backyard. As a result, ERP was given approval to submit the full proposal. There is also a \$10,000 Rotary Grant, that if received, could go towards the backyard. VI. Claims were submitted to ASSET and ERP has been paid for July-December 2016. VII. The new handbook will go into effect after the new beds and footlockers are in place. VIII. Work is continuing on overall goals to develop formalized procedures and policies. Troy is starting to do some case management with the gentlemen in the shelter. IX. Volunteers continue to be recruited. X. Conversations with the Salvation Army, the City of Ames, and Story County Community Services about the homeless prevention applications are continuing. It is hoped that one application could be developed that would meet the needs of all of the organizations.
- h. AMOS. There will be a meeting in March to discuss restoring local control and better funding of mental health services.
- i. Gabriel Project – Bethany (end of program) The project has concluded since Informed Choices is covering many of the services provided by the Gabriel Project.
- j. Sanctity of Life – Garland. No new information.
- k. Rice Bowl – Cynthia. Rice bowls have been distributed in the school and are available to parishioners in baskets in the Narthex and at the entrance to the worship space.
- l. Home for Awhile – Mary. No new information. The apartments are full.
- m. Days for Girls – Mary. Nevada High School on April 21. CyServe at STC on April 22. There will be a sewing team meeting on April 21 at the Nevada High School and one on April 22 for CyServe. Participants from the ISU campus will be bused to the workshop which will be in the Oscar Romero room at St. Cecilia’s.
- n. Sarah announced that Leadership Ames is soliciting projects for the current leadership team. This is an opportunity for any non-profit to propose a project that can be completed in 3-4 months. The non-profit organization does need to be an Ames Chamber member. There is no dollar amount for the project and it is free money and free time. The project would be done by teams of ~four individuals who are in the current Leadership Ames program.

D. Prayer/Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM with a prayer.