

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Draft Minutes

June 18, 2018, 7:00PM, St. Louis Room

Present: Mary Ross, Julie Haas, Jarrett Wendt, Doreen Berg, Deacon Ron Smith, Nancy Heideman, Jean Boot, John Wilson, Lynn Franco, Sarah Swanson, Cynthia Shriver

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

- A. Call to Order – Doreen
- B. Opening prayer – Ron led the opening prayer. Prayer for Migrants and Refugees.
- C. Welcome & introductions.
- D. In Service - Sister Water Project/Dubuque Franciscan Sisters. We watched a video of the successful Sister Water Project started by Franciscan Sisters in Dubuque.

BUSINESS MEETING

A. MINUTES/MAY draft minutes- Cynthia. **Minutes were approved by consensus.**

B. CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you notes: MICA - Monthly support of Story County Dental Clinic, Ames Ecumenical, Inc. monetary donation; Boys & Girls Club monetary donation

Newsletters: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

C. FINANCIALS - Jean

a. May Financial Report. Jean presented the May report. The monetary value of the Food Shelf collection will be calculated using the following formula, \$1.74/ pound. Monetary Receipts: \$3,309.20, Estimated Value of Food Shelf Contributions (272 pounds x \$1.74): \$473.28, Disbursements: \$4,305.22, Bank Balance as of May 31, 2018: \$73,688.08. Discretionary Funds Available: \$6,931.11. Food at First Chef's Budget Balance: \$193.97. July's Special Allocations: Birthright: \$250.00, Informed Choices: \$250.00.

b. Request: Primary Health Care/Blast Back to School Event. **By consensus the committee agreed to give Primary Health Care \$250.00 for back-to-school physicals.**

The money will come out of discretionary funds.

c. 2018/2019 Budget. **The 2018-2019 budget was approved by consensus.** Doreen pointed out that compared to the discretionary funds on hand last year at this time the fund has increased only ~\$600.00

d. Discretionary Funds Discussion. Postponed due to a lack of time.

D. NEW BUSINESS

a. Pastoral Council – Jarrett reported that the two priests currently at STA will be leaving and they will be replaced by only one priest. St. Peter and Paul will join the Nevada/Colo cluster. Church elections went smoothly. We have four new employees.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Bulletin Board – Lynn thanked the committee for their ideas for the bulletin board and said to keep them coming. Thank you, Lynn, for a job well done.

2. Rice Bowl – Cynthia reported that the final amount for CRS Rice Bowl 2018 is \$5009.11.

3. Respect Life and Social Justice Formation.

<https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/respect-life/respect-life-and-social-justice-formation-for-all/>

There we will be a freedom of religion program June 28, 7:00 p.m. North Social Hall led by Ron.

4. Wings of Refuge, a faith based restoration home serving human trafficking survivors.

Carol Nelson attended the meeting. Doreen will contact her to obtain more information.

5. Martha's House of Hope. Doreen stated that the group is two thirds to their fund raising goal. It was confirmed that we as a committee cannot contribute to it until it is approved by the diocese.

6. AMOS –

a. Community ID Program. Nancy, reporting from her minutes, stated that the group continues to work on building awareness in the community. Startup funds are estimated to be between 5 and 10 thousand dollars. We will wait until the next meeting to decide on whether STC will pledge and, if so, how much.

b. AMOS. There was a discussion about how much STC gives to AMOS. We currently donate \$500.00 and that will remain the same for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

7. Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance – Nancy reported that AIRA currently has a family of four

consisting of a mother with three children. AIRA pays half of her rent. The question was raised whether STC is willing to make a one-time payment to help with the rent. The committee did not take action since there was a concern voiced over the current situation.

8. Committee reports:

- a. Good Samaritan - Lynn needs more volunteers for food transfers and for putting out the cart on GS weekends as well as monitoring the envelopes in the pews. She will place another request in the bulletin. It would be good to get the school children involved in transferring the food from the church to the car but that would take a lot of coordination by the student and the driver of the car.
 - * May 19/20 food pantry donation. 409.5 pounds
 - * June 16/17 envelopes, cart and food transfer- Terry and Lynn Franco
- b. Hunger Collaboration - (next meeting July 19th) Mary was asked to send the Shop+1 program flyer to them.
- c. Food at First –Doreen (April average 62.6 meals per day). The death of Jim Gaunt was acknowledged. He was very active in the community and heavily involved in FAF.
- d. Good Neighbor – Search for GNEA board member to replace Phyllis. Thank you, Phyllis, for your service.
- e. Restorative Justice No report.
 - *Butterfly House – Ron conducted a program on mentoring for the volunteers at the house.
 - *Matthew 25 House – Ron. All is okay.
- f. Individual Assistance – Ron. More money is needed
- g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie. No action was taken on the Backyard renovation project. A new Shelter Coordinator, Kristine Harris, has been hired. A \$12, 300.00 Capital Improvement Grant will go towards air conditioning the 4-plex and the addition in the main shelter. Two families have moved from the Transitional Housing program and it is anticipated that another will soon move. The Rapid Rehousing Program has housed their first family. There has been a significant increase in requests for homelessness prevention. Several new volunteers have been recruited as evening shelter assistants and custodial work in the transition housing units. Dave Wolsdorf, Danforth Solutions, has been approved as an at-large board member.
- h. Sanctity of Life – Garland. Minutes of the June 10 meeting were distributed.
- i. Home for Awhile – Mary. Regarding Julie and Bill’s duplex apartment, after much discussion, the committee wants to continue with the duplex as a 3-month transitional housing opportunity.
- j. Days for Girls – Mary. The move was successful and the new room is wonderful. Jean got a large storage cabinet from ISU surplus, and it along with the file cabinet, provides sufficient space for the materials and supplies.

9. Additional concerns.

- a. Jarrett presented a new version of the proposed SJ bulletin. Committee members that work with specific organizations supported by the Black Bag collection were asked to submit a brief description (~30 words) of their organizations purpose to Jarrett. No major changes were made to the version Jarrett distributed except to move Days for Girls under the education heading.
- b. It was announced that Deacon Ron Smith and Barb Moore have been awarded the Governor’s Outstanding Volunteer Award for their Story County Jail Ministry. Congratulations Deacon Ron and Barb.
- c. A question was raised regarding the role of the SJ Committee in educating and in involving parish members in Social Justice topics and projects. Current projects are quarterly bulletins, the bulletin board, Good Samaritan Weekend signage, Black Bag and announcements from the altar. It was suggested that we hold another ministry fair and that there be more publicity about St. Cecilia school childrens’s involvement in social justice projects. Also perhaps there should be more information on how the Black Bag funds are distributed. Currently this is done once a year in a bulletin flyer. The question of whether we should increase our educational efforts was tabled.

F. Prayer/Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer.