

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

August 20, 2018, 7:00PM, St. Louis Room

Present: Julie Haas, Mary Ross, Doreen Berg, Jean Boot, Nancy Heideman, Barb Moore, Jarrett Wendt, Deacon Ron Smith, Sarah Swanson, John Wilson, Cynthia Shriver, Sam Kellen, Dick Mc Coy

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

- A. Call to Order – Doreen called the meeting to order at 7 PM.
- B. Opening prayer – We were asked by Deacon Ron to pray for intercession for what is in our hearts.
- C. Welcome & introductions. Sam Kellen and Dick McCoy were introduced to the group.
- D. In Service – Ron. Sam gave a report on his mission trip to Billings, Montana, as part of Catholic Heart Missions. Fifteen parishes were represented. There were opportunities to work on various projects and to interact with members of other parishes. Thank you, Sam, for coming to speak with us. Dick spoke about the Ecumenical Housing Project (EHP). He is STC's representative to it. He presented a history of the organization. Two housing units, Stonehaven and Keystone are the result of EHP efforts. Rents are subsidized by the federal government for individuals who qualify. There are several apartments for people over 65 and for those with mobility issues. The Board hired Newberry of West Des Moines to manage the housing units and to get them in compliance with HUD rules.

BUSINESS MEETING

A. MINUTES/July draft minutes- Minutes approved by consensus.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you notes: MICA - Monthly support of Story County Dental Clinic, Birthright, Wings of Refuge. NAMI of Central Iowa August Newsletter

C. FINANCIALS – Jean.

- a. July Financial Report. There was no report since there was no data from the parish office.
- b. Discretionary Funds Discussion. No discussion was possible because of (C a). See above. Doreen and Jean proposed an abbreviated monthly financial report for the committee. The committee would receive relevant end-of-the-month balances. Details would be available on request. The master budget sheet (everyone received one previously) could be used to learn which non-recurring organizations were receiving funds for the present month. The committee was fine with the proposal.
- c. Sister Well Project Consideration (December) Doreen stated that the Sisters are willing to come to Ames to speak. Doreen will contact the school to see if they are interested in the project. The committee is anticipating donating to the group from the unallocated International Mission line in the budget.
- d. Requests - Lila Mae's House (Paint your Prayer retreat consideration October 27). By consensus, the committee agreed to donate \$100 for supplies for the retreat. The house is a recovery home for victims of human trafficking. Jo Myer-Walker is spearheading the event. It will be held at STC. Regarding human trafficking 70-80% are women, 80% is sex exploitation and the rest is labor. Jo is selling notecards and will be at STC Christmas market

D. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Pastoral Council – Sarah reported that the parish council is updating informational binders for new council members.
- b. There is an Ames Crop Walk meeting at Bethesda at 4 PM on August 23.
- c. Father Jim received a letter from Erv Klaas. Father would like a STC representative at the Climate Solution Circle meeting being held at UUFA on September 8. Please let Doreen know if you plan on attending.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Advocacy/Publicity

*Bulletin Board/Newsletter – Lynn. The SJ newsletter was distributed the weekend of August 18-19. The committee discussed the impact of the shortened announcements before Mass.

*Social Justice Brochure – Jarrett. Some changes were suggested. A cover image was chosen.

Jarrett will check with Father Jim on whether the brochures could be put in the pews the weekend before and the weekend of the Black Bag collection. He will also ask Father Jim how early we might be allowed to put the Good Samaritan/Black Bag poster up at the entrance to the church.

*Parish Ministry Fair - September 22/23, 2018 after all masses – Social Justice will have a booth so we need ideas and volunteers.

*Social Justice Ministry Fair - February 17, 2019 after the 8:30 and 10:30 AM masses. Doreen will ask Becca to do balloons.

2. Respect Life and Social Justice Formation. <https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/respect-life/respect-life-and-social-justice-formation-for-all/> - Ron. There are no presentations planned for August or September but there will be one In October.
3. AMOS – Nancy. Community ID Program. The group is working on getting key individuals involved. The program will encompass all of central Iowa.
4. Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance – Nancy. The refugee family that AIRA was working with is no longer in the apartment but AIRA continues to work with the mother to help her build life skills. AIRA has a balance of \$1,500.00 and is looking for additional funding from churches and organizations. The ongoing costs for the organization are not known. There is no new family being sponsored but they are hoping to offer support to refugee families in Ames. There are many.
5. Committee reports:
 - a. Good Samaritan - Lynn
 - * July 1/22 food pantry donation - 380 pounds
 - * August 18/19 envelopes, cart and food transfer- Lynn & Terry Franco. Three new families have volunteered to help with the cart and food transfer.
 - b. Hunger Collaboration – Doreen reported that the group is working on how to get the Farmers’ Market to use the SNAP program vouchers. In the last several months, much effort has been put into identifying issues and collecting data. A timeline for action needs to be made.
 - c. Food at First –Doreen (July average 73 meals per day) RAGBRII =825 meals not included
 - d. Good Neighbor –GNEA board member needed
 - e. Restorative Justice - Barb/Ron. Deacon Charles has joined the Saturday morning team at the Story County Jail. Attendance is good.
 - *Butterfly House – Barb. There are three residents and all are working.
 - *Matthew 25 House – Ron. All is going well. Deacon Jeff from Catholic Charities visited both the Matthew House and the Butterfly House.
 - f. Individual Assistance – Ron. All is okay.
 - g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie. ERP assisted 53 households, 155 individuals with rent and utility assistance for the month of July. Five families, representing 7 adults and 16 children are in Transitional Housing. Five household are currently in the Rapid Rehousing program and more households are expected to come in to the program. YSS, ACCESS and ERP are meeting weekly to prioritize a list of people needing housing assistance and connect them to the correct program. Funds will not be distributed on a first come first served basis. Progress in completing the playground is being made. Carrie is working on fundraising/donor development and needs board support. She is also working with Story County, the city of Ames, Salvation Army and Good Neighbor to improve the coordination of homeless prevention funding.
 - h. Sanctity of Life – Garland. No report.
 - i. Home for Awhile – Mary. This year four apartments are part of the program. The family in the 1-year option was able to purchase a home in southern Iowa. Cornerstone sold the apartment they had been donating to the program but the proceeds from the sale will be donated to Home for Awhile. St Cecilia continues to solely fund one of the four apartments.
 - j. Days for Girls –Mary. Days for Girls is a service project for an event at the Missouri Star Quilt Company in Hamilton, MO. It will be held on September 20-22. They will be sewing components for 500 kits, plus assembling 800-1,000 kits. Contact Mary for more information. Also, Days for Girls will be Altrusa’s service project this year.
6. Additional Concerns.

Unbound is asking St. Cecilia when they can come and speak again. Unbound is a sponsorship-based society for children, young adults and the elderly. It is an international organization.

F. Prayer/Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM with a prayer.