

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

February 16, 2015, 6:20PM, Sunroom

Present: Mary Ross, Marlene Weishaar, Julie Haas, Becca Wemhoff, Dawn Aitchison, Deacon Ron Smith, Barb Moore, Cynthia Shriver

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

I. SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE

- A. Call to Order – Mary called the meeting to order at 6:20PM.
- B. Opening prayer – Ron led the opening prayer.
- C. Welcome, introduction. None.

II. BUSINESS MEETING

A. January minutes. Approved by consensus.

B. Correspondence:

Thank you notes – Butterfly Freedom House for \$1225 in 2014 (\$25 from St. Mary Circle).

Request for donations: Informed Choices

C. New Business

1. Social Justice Newsletter – Feb. 22. The SJ newsletter will be distributed the weekend of Feb. 22. Its focus will be on housing and shelter. Help is needed to stuff the bulletins on Friday morning.
2. Klingseis estate. We are uncertain about any of the specifics regarding the Klingseis estate and SJ.

D. Unfinished business

1. Parish Tithing Committee – Todd & Mary. Mary attended the committee meeting. No decisions were made. Another meeting is scheduled for March 9.
2. ERP 4-Plex Renovation - According to Deacon Alan's report of 2/12, St. Cecilia has raised ~\$7,600.00 of our \$13,000.00 commitment to the ERP remodeling project. \$1,000.00 of that was from Brad Shrader and his son both from the Church of the Latter Day Saints. Shari Reilly said that St. Thomas will raise the \$13,000.00 needed to renovate Unit #2.
3. Sister Parish – Dawn. Dawn Aitchison will be leaving for Nicaragua in March and will be there for 20 days. She will be coordinating activities for a group of high school students. If anyone has questions or issues she would like to hear from them before she leaves since communication from Iowa can be difficult. She emphasized that mission trips and sister parish activities can be separate. The mission trips she leads are not the same as sister parish activities. Issues of liability and leadership need to be addressed before establishing a formal sister parish relationship with *Divino Nino*.
4. Home for Awhile. Mary hopes to attend the next meeting of *Home for Awhile*.
5. Pastoral Council - Todd Clancy. Mary stated that the parish needs to decide what figure to use for parish income with regards to parish tithing. Discussions are ongoing.
6. Financial reports – Becca reported. Monetary Receipts: \$3,994.94. Estimated Value of Food Shelf Contributions: \$716.80. Disbursements: \$4,216.35. Bank Balance as of January 31, 2015: \$10,974.45. Discretionary Funds Available: \$4,537.99. January budget balance to be paid to Food at First in February: \$290.46. February Special Allocations: Ames Ecumenical Housing: \$250.00
7. Committee reports:
 - a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation: **448 pounds** in January **Feb. 21/22** – *Chuck Habing*; **March 21/22** – *Keith & Linda Huls*; **April 18/19** – *Tom & Dorothy Sally*
Mary restocked the envelopes in the pews. We are still dealing with the issue of parishioners bringing in food throughout the month which is a good thing. However, storage can then become a problem.
 - b. Hunger Coalition – Marlene. There are ~26 groups that make up the Hunger Coalition. The group is studying the root causes of hunger in the county. Marlene distributed a report entitled *Poverty and Food Needs in Story County* produced by ISU Extension and Research. We are encouraged to read the material. According to the report, obesity and diabetes continue to be a problem. Nutrition efforts are mainly through ISU.
 - c. Food at First – Doreen, Cynthia, Julie, Cindy. The move to First Christian is expected to take place in April. Fraternities are lined up to help with the move.
 - d. Good Neighbor - Doreen. The March fundraiser has been cancelled because the band, *Holy Ground*, cannot come.
 - e. Restorative Justice - Ron. No replacement has been found for Dave Temple, who resigned as area coordinator. Mike Potter, the new chaplain, has scheduled a required meeting for all volunteers. One female has come back to the area. She is residing in the Curt Forbes Residential Facility and is being mentored by the *Women at the Well* group from one of the Methodist churches.
 - f. Individual Assistance – Ron has been assisting a number of individuals

- g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie. Julie reported that ERP was one of the recipients of the Cy statues auction and received \$11,000.00. ERP continues to be very busy with no slow down this year. Two-thirds of our shelter men are transients from outside the county. Regarding women and families, ERP receives several inquiries per week for housing with the families having about a 1 in 10 chance of being placed through ERP. Fund raising by Deacon Alan is moving forward for the 4-plex renovation. AMOS is currently planning an affordable housing conference for next fall. A city staffer feels that the occupancy rate in Ames will fall from 98% to 92% by 2016. However, very little of the vacant rental property will be for low income. Vic stressed that the HUD requirement standards are going to be hard to implement and it will be hard to stay in compliance.
 - h. AMOS – Training Feb. 22, 2-6PM at Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish, Ankeny. RSVP needed (amosipl@gmail.com). Notes from the AMOS’s 2014 house meeting campaign were distributed.
 - i. Gabriel Project. No Report.
 - j. Sanctity of Life minutes. The minutes of the 2/2/15 minutes were included in the committee’s packet. . Thank you.
 - k. Additional issues. Mary will check to determine if we need a replacement for Ed Fawkes as a representative to the Ames Ecumenical Housing group.
- E. Prayer/Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55PM with a prayer so committee members could attend the lecture given by Mark Shea and sponsored by Man Up.