

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

March 16, 2015, 7:00PM, Sunroom

Present: Ron Smith, Doreen Berg, Mary Ross, Todd Clancy, Becca Wemhoff, JoAnne Dalhoff, Cynthia Shriver

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

I. SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE

- A. Call to Order – Mary called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
- B. Opening prayer – Ron led the opening prayer.
- C. Welcome, introductions-None.
- D. In-Service - Faithful Citizenship: P. 23, #80 *Affordable and Accessible Health Care*
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/upload/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf>-Postponed.

II. BUSINESS MEETING

A. The February minutes were approved by consensus.

B. Correspondence:

Thank you notes: Ames Ecumenical Housing-\$250.00

YSS for Christmas gifts

NAMI-\$250.00

MICA-\$150.00 Dental Clinic

A family for Christmas gifts

Request for donations: Letter from Fr. Seda and Fr. Glaser to support the Catholic Student Centers in the archdiocese. We will ask for more information about specific programs that relate to social justice.

Amos- request for \$50.00 for ad-Sent in already.

C. New Business

1. Request for parish office fund from Char. Since Char is getting requests for financial help from walk-ins to the parish office, she would like a fund to work from. **By consensus, \$150.00/one-time will be given for this purpose.** We will ask that records are kept so that Deacon Ron knows what amounts are being distributed, for what purposes and to whom. We will re-visit the situation when data is available.
2. Ames Ecumenical Housing Council – need rep. Next meeting: March 24 at 4PM in Keystone social room. Call Ron Matthews (515-520-2479) if you plan to attend (door has secured coded entry). Julie will speak to Mary Fawkes.

[Note from Ron Matthews: Hopefully I've at least in part conveyed our tremendous gratitude for Ed's and Mary's contribution to the success of the Ames Ecumenical Housing Board Inc.! And of course that gratitude should also be conveyed to St. Cecilia's congregation and especially your committee for his involvement as your representative! He made an outstanding difference and we miss him greatly. And want to carry on his work in part out of honoring his role in our further development. Thank you all, Ron Matthews]

3. Days for Girls- The program provides sustainable feminine hygiene kits for girls in developing countries. Not having sanitary supplies means not going to school, not going to work, not leaving the house. A team will be started in Ames and there will be an organizational meeting after Easter. A leader and co-leader are needed. **By consensus, \$150.00 was approved for the project.** It will be helpful to have a wish list for the program.

D. Unfinished business

1. Parish Tithing Committee – No report. Father Jim has been asked for direction
2. Klingseis estate-Todd The final decision on the use of the funds from the Klingseis' estate should be made at the meeting to be held a week from tomorrow. Doreen did suggest that a request to Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee be made for money to be used to honor the couple. Doreen mentioned that Christmas was special to them and perhaps something could be done that reflects that sentiment.
3. ERP 4-Plex Renovation. Deacon Alan wrote that we are closing in on our goal. \$10, 631.00 has been raised. Work should begin on April 11. Dale VanderShaff and Chuck Abbott have graciously volunteered to help Alan during the week and to help with supervision on the weekends.
4. Sister Parish- Mary put together a possible plan for a sister parish, as one of our committee's initiatives. An outline of the program envisioned was distributed. A discussion followed revolving around the on-going issue of liabilities such as the parish policy of not allowing individuals younger than 18 to travel internationally as part of a St. Cecilia's group unless a

parent accompanies them, whether a parent signing a waiver will hold up to scrutiny, and how do other diocesan parishes with sister parishes handle the subject.

5. Home for Awhile –Mary attended a recent meeting and reported that they are doing good work. The group does mentor the residents.
6. Pastoral Council-No additional information.
6. Financial reports – Becca. Monetary Receipts: \$3,562.77, Estimated Value of Food Shelf Contributions: \$937.00, Disbursements: \$3,183.25, Bank Balance as of February 28, 2015 \$10,721.75, Discretionary Funds Available: \$4,280.76, February FF budget balance to be paid to Food at First in March: \$294.99. March Special Allocations: Catholic Charities: \$250.00, Boys and Girls Club: \$250.00. Becca reminded us that we need to start planning for the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget. Becca stated that she does not see any increase in the total budget, since during some months this fiscal year, the donations did not make budget. She reminded us that some of the \$150.00 per month donations to MICA can be re-assigned. Please email Becca **in advance**, with ideas. Becca mentioned that we also need to be thinking of how to use the estate money if we receive it. Do we allocate funds to specific projects, establish funds to sustain projects by using interest only from invested accounts, and if we do both, what are the criteria for establishing the level of funding for each of the options and for programs within each of the options.
7. Committee reports:
 - a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation: 296 (Bob Hauser took to MICA) + 290 = **586 pounds** in January! Thank you Bob.
March 21/22 – Keith & Linda Huls; April 18/19 – Tom & Dorothy Sally
We need to continue to monitor the amount of food that comes in on NON Good Samaritan weekends. If it continues to be a lot, we need to come up with a plan to fix it.
 - b. Hunger Coalition – Marlene
 - c. Food at First – Doreen, Cynthia, Julie, Cindy. The move to serve meals at First Christian is planned for the weekend of March 28/29. The market will be moving at a later time.
 - d. Good Neighbor - Doreen reported that \$1,600.00 was raised at the Northminster Presbyterian Church's *Festival of Music* event. Good Neighbor will receive a 2.31% increase in ASSET funding raising it to \$26,308.00. A grant has been submitted to the Rotary Club of Ames for \$1,000.00 to support the Gas Voucher program.
 - e. Restorative Justice - Ron stated that Barb Moore has agreed to coordinate the scheduling of volunteers at the Story County jail. Dave Temple still wants to be involved in the ministry. Two mentors are needed.
 - f. Individual Assistance – Ron reported that there have been requests but there is no money currently available.
 - g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie. The Board is working on obtaining medical insurance for the employees and on a succession plan for Vic. Also, see D 3.
 - h. AMOS. Need representative from parish.
 - i. Gabriel Project. No report.
 - j. Sanctity of Life minutes. No report.
 - k. Additional issues. We had an accidental double payment to St. Cecilia's Backpack Program. Since they have sufficient funds, we can get it back and use it someplace else.
- E. Prayer/Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM with a prayer.