

# Saint Cecilia Social Justice Draft Minutes

April 17, 2017, 7:00PM, Oscar Romero Room

Present: Barb Moore, Deacon Ron Smith, Doreen Berg, Becca Wemhoff, Julie Haas, Sarah Swanson, Jarrett Wendt, Cynthia Shriver.  
Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

- A. Call to Order. Mary called the meeting to order at 7 PM.
- B. Opening prayer. Deacon Ron led the opening prayer. Committee members were asked to share the kind of hope (programs) we wish for the under-served during this Easter season.
- C. Welcome, introductions. None
- D. In-Service. Ron. The opening prayer served as the in-service.

## BUSINESS MEETING

- A. March minutes. **The March minutes were approved by consensus.**
- B. Thank you notes:
  - 1. Birthright
  - 2. Story County Dental Clinic for \$150 and a general note from a board member
  - 3. Primary Health Care for \$100 March 13 & 28Invitation to CCJ's French Toast Dinner, April 11. 2.  
Request for food donations (snacks), Primary Health Care; for Centering Pregnancy Program. Mary has a list of requested items. Please contact her if you are interested in helping.
- C. New business
  - 1. Good Neighbor. STC Award on April 23. STC will receive an award for Outstanding Faith Member from Good Neighbor at their 20 year anniversary celebration. Deacon Ron will accept the award on behalf of the parish. The award ceremony begins at 3:30 PM.
- D. Unfinished business
  - 1. Respect Life and Social Justice Formation: [dbqarch.org/rlsj/formation](http://dbqarch.org/rlsj/formation). Next meeting in June. <https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/respect-life/respect-life-and-social-justice-formation-for-all/>
  - 2. Individual Assistance Guidelines. Father Jim, Deacon Ron and Mary will meet to discuss the guidelines. There is some confusion among committee members on a number of issues and the meeting should clarify them. They include: I. Will the individual targeted assistance (ITA) be subject to the SJ committee's guidelines, II. Can individuals contribute to individual committees, III. Can individuals contribute to specific individuals and IV. Will the ITA line item be in the STCSJ committee's budget or in the parish budget.
  - 3. Klingseis estate. There was a ground-breaking ceremony on March 31 for the new Friendship Ark home. The home can accommodate five individuals and there is already a waiting list of 25.
  - 4. Coffee sales. The sales will be held again in June. If you are interested in helping, please contact Char.
  - 5. Pictorial Directory. Doreen reported that she, Phyllis, and Cynthia helped with the pictorial directory sign-in. More volunteers are needed so please contact the parish office if you are interested in helping. Bill Haas came to this meeting to take a group photo of the SJ Committee. (No pressure Bill but we all expect to look exceptionally wonderful). Thank you very much, Bill.
  - 6. Need board member or representatives for AMOS.
  - 7. Pastoral Council. Sarah reported that there was a joint meeting of the Pastoral Council, Finance Committee and Building Committee at which a power point presentation was made on how to move forward with renovations of the worship space. Four possibilities were listed: do nothing, make necessary repairs, remodel, and rebuild. Based on informal polling of the individuals present, remodel was the favorite option. At the next Parish Council meeting, a formal building committee will be organized. It is important to note that at this time nothing has been decided or solidified. It is felt that the urgent issues, such as roof repair and HVAC, could be done with a remodel.
  - 8. Financial reports. Becca. Monetary Receipts: \$4,275.01, Estimated Value of Food Shelf Contributions: \$680.00, Disbursements: \$4,008.76, Bank Balance as of March 31, 2017: \$81,504.88, Discretionary Funds Available: \$4,391.64, March FAF budget balance to be paid to FAF in April: \$188.24. April's Special Allocations: \$255.00. Boys and Girls Club. Becca asked that we think about the 2017-18 budget and send her requests and ideas. Doreen will contact Anna to determine if she anticipates needing financial assistance for any youth mission trips this

- year. The committee decided that we will support UNI, ISU, and UI campus ministries this year.
9. Parishioners' assistance. Sarah and Jarrett. The plan now is to focus the program on items and goods (not services) that parishioners need. Two ways to spread and fulfill the needs are the SJ bulletin board and by using the software program, Genius. Linnea Dolan will be in charge of both. It was mentioned that existing programs, such as Prayer Chain and Meal Assistance, need to be better advertised to parishioners. If financial assistance is needed, the individual/family will be referred to Deacon Ron. The bulletin board will continue to be used as a way to educate the parish on social justice issues and to highlight the organizations STC supports through the black bag collections. Someone asked if the Time and Talent form includes a section for goods and no one knew the answer.
  10. Committee reports:
    - a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation: **385.5 pounds** in February; **485 pounds** in March; *April 15/16 – Tom & Dorothy Sally*
    - b. Hunger Collaboration. Doreen reported that the availability of garden plots will not be organized by the Hunger Coalition. Promotion of the program will be by word of mouth.
    - c. Food at First. Doreen stated Patty Yoder has now been categorized as an employee of FAF instead of as an independent contractor. She is employed for 30 hours per week. Mary found restaurant quality dessert plates for a good price, and after checking with Patty, Doreen purchased 80 plates for ~\$20.00. **The money will come out of the monthly donation we make to FAF.** Doreen reported a shortage of dessert plates at a previous meeting. There was a short discussion about whether STC has enough manpower to take on another night of cooking. Presently, STC parishioners prepare meals every Tuesday of the month. It was said that we have enough servers/ kitchen helpers but what we lack is a head chef.
    - d. Good Neighbor. Preparation is continuing for the 20 year celebration. Auction items are still being solicited.
    - e. Restorative Justice. Barb will be traveling to Mitchellville to interview women who want to come to the Butterfly House (BH). She stated that the BH is a Christian based home and regulations reflect that reality. A problem occurs when a woman first goes to first Kurt Forbes (which has more liberal policies) and then comes to BH. Attendance at the Saturday services at the County Jail has been low (no one for four weeks). The name of the program is Catholic Faith Formation and there was some discussion on whether a name change would help attendance. Everyone is welcome to attend the service and it is Catholic based so the challenge is to have a name that reflects both descriptions. The ministry will continue to be offered.
    - f. Individual Assistance. Ron said he received a very nice note from the individual we helped from the Ivory Coast and he is doing well. Ron happily reported that the individual we have been helping for months has finally received notice that her disability payments will begin in April.
    - g. Emergency Residence Project. Julie reported that Carrie Dunwald, the director, has prepared a budget but that it will take a couple of years to fine tune. She has significantly increased the number of volunteers and continues to do so. The new office in the backroom is used by Carrie and Cynthia Lidke, Carrie's assistant. It is also used for counseling and primary care visits one day a week. Troy Jansen manages the homeless shelter and is in the original office. Troy will eventually work days only and a new person will be hired for the evening shifts starting July 1. Computer updates are being purchase. Carrie is working on publicity and marketing as well as on a new Vision Statement and on the ERP website. She is planning an Open House in June to showcase the Shelter upgrades. There have been a lot of painting and cleaning as well as new beds, foot lockers, and refinished floors for the men's dorm. Carrie will write two new grants to help pay for the construction of the playground. Phase 1 and 2 has been approved by the Board. Insurance upgrades (staff benefits, life, dental, vision) have been purchased. The men's shelter upstairs bathroom is completed and now needs painting.
    - h. Sanctity of Life. Mary reported on Garland's notes from the February meeting.
    - i. Rice Bowl. Cynthia said the program is progressing as planned. The collection of rice bowl envelopes will officially end the weekend of April 29/30.
    - j. Home for Awhile. Mary. Because of a lack of funds, the number of apartments will be decreased from four to three. Demand remains high.
    - k. Days for Girls. Mary. The program continues to grow. Several service projects have been planned.

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