

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

March 19, 2018, 7:00PM, Oscar Romero Room

Present: Mary Ross, Doreen Berg, Julie Haas, Barb Moore, Jarrett Wendt, Nancy Heideman, Deacon Ron Smith, Deacon Charles Bernhard, Sarah Swanson, Karen Stein, Rosemary and Jim Wilson, Cynthia Shriver
Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE

- A. Call to Order – Mary called the meeting to order.
- B. Opening prayer - Ron led the opening prayer which was “memorare to St. Joseph”.
- C. Welcome & introductions were made.
- D. In-Service – Karen Stein. Karen Stein spoke to the committee regarding the amount of bullying occurring in the middle school. She is looking for ideas on how to empower the students to have administrators effectively address the problem without the students and their supporters experiencing negative repercussions. In her opinion, whatever policy that is currently in place is not working. She wondered if an ecumenical group of congregations could form a kind of a student social justice committee that would gain the attention of the administration. The committee members assured her that she has their support and offered several resources that might help. The committee felt that more specific information needs to be gathered regarding the current policy and why it is not working.

BUSINESS MEETING

- A. February minutes were approved by consensus.
- B. Correspondence
 - Thank you notes:
 - NAMI A list of their meetings were included in the thank you note.
 - MICA - for support of the food pantry (needs toilet paper, dental & feminine hygiene products, diapers)
- C. New Business. None.
- D. Old Business
 1. New Leadership of Social Justice. By consensus it was agreed that starting today, Doreen is the new chair of Social Justice. A huge thank you to Mary for her years of excellent leadership, kind and patient ways and untiring energy.
 2. Social Justice Stations of the Cross were held March 2. Becca, Ron, Jarrett and Phyllis were all in attendance.
 3. Project Linus – Co-sponsored by Social Justice, Feb. 25 – Jessica Loecke would like additional family projects. <https://www.projectlinus.org/>. Project Linus was a remarkable success.
 4. Rice Bowl – Cynthia reported that the rice bowl program is proceeding nicely.
 5. Story County Housing Trust. No new information.
 6. Respect Life and Social Justice Formation. dbqarch.org/rlsj/formation.
<https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/respect-life/respect-life-and-social-justice-formation-for-all/>
Ron reported that there will be another session in May.
 7. Klingseis estate. No new information.
 8. AMOS. Nancy is on the AMOS Immigration Committee. She reported that there will be a meeting on March 25 at St. Cecilia’s (after the Spanish mass) with Rev. David Fraccaro, director of the non-profit *FaithAction* speaking about the program, *The Photo ID of FaithAction*. The program issues a community ID that may help people from deportation. Rev. Fraccaro runs several satellites programs across the country and is hoping to have one in our area. The Friends Church in Ames is considering becoming a sanctuary church and hosting a family. The family would be supported by volunteers, supplies and money. Jarrett reported that Father Jim believes it would be fine to put something in the bulletin explaining the program and its needs and stating that this is an opportunity for people to participate in it by supporting it individually. The parish would not be a sponsor. A final decision has not been made by the Friends Church.
 9. Pastoral Council – Sarah raised the issue of placing welcoming brochures in the pews. Jarrett raised the question of how important to the committee is having the blue Good Samaritan

envelopes in the pews all through the month. It was decided that we need more information on the amount of money collected on weekends that are not designated as Good Samaritan. Doreen will check with Char.

10. Financial reports & budget – Jean/Doreen. Monetary Receipts: \$3,406.38, Estimated Value of Food Shelf Contributions: \$972.00, Disbursements: \$7,172.94, Bank Balance as of February 28, 2018: \$73,952.56, Discretionary Funds Available: \$6,821.19, FAF: \$141.37, March's Special Allocations: Catholic Charities: \$275.00, Ames Ecumenical Housing: \$250.00.
 11. Initiatives for Social Justice – Jan. 27 meeting. The initiatives presented by Jarrett at the last meeting and emailed to committee members were approved by consensus. Please see February minutes. The proposed SJ brochure will be discussed at a future meeting.
 12. Youth ministry mission grants – Doreen reported that \$2,075.00 was transferred to Youth Ministry to pay for the chaperones expenses at the 2018 Catholic Heart Workcamp and for other supplies. This is the money in the 2015, 2016, and 2017 budgets for St. Cecilia's Youth Ministry that was not used.
 13. Committee reports:
 - a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation. **607.5#** in February.
 - b. Hunger Collaboration. The minutes of the March 15 meeting were available in the committee's packet information. The rate at which missed meals grew was steeper than the rate at which meals provided grew. Please see agency's minutes for additional information.
 - c. Food at First –Doreen. Meals provided continue to be around 60 per day. Fresh Thyme is now supplying food but the amount of food from some of the other supermarkets is decreasing.
 - d. Good Neighbor. Phyllis. No report.
 - e. Restorative Justice - Barb reported that in the last few weeks there has been good participation at the Saturday morning services. She has a new volunteer who has had experience with prison ministries and that will help a lot. Butterfly House is going well with three women in residency.
 - f. Individual Assistance – Ron reported that the need is there. He continues to get donations.
 - g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie reported that the shelter remains full. They are now using the shelter diversion forms and tracking. The full grant submission to the Ames Capital Improvement Fund was granted which will be used to air condition the 4 plex and the back part of the shelter. Amy Robak is the new housing support specialist. Linda has been recruiting volunteers for a myriad of projects and is working on a volunteer Street Outreach Program starting May 1. The Point in Time survey found 21 singles in shelters, four households (19 people) in motels, 15 people in Transitional Housing, and 5 people living in places not meant for human habitation. Data is still being collected. Help is needed for getting the word out for Reggie's Sleep out to be held at the ISU stadium on March 24.
 - h. Sanctity of Life – Garland. Rosemary and Jim stated that at the last meeting they discussed selling flowers on Mother's Day. They are also hoping that St. Cecilia's Faith Formation Commission is interested in the prolife materials they have.
 - i. Home for Awhile – Mary. The last client for this contract has moved in to 307 Opal Circle. Thanks to Bill and Julie Haas! Since the new occupant (mom plus two children) did not have anything, Mary consulted with Ron and Target gift cards were given to them.
 - j. Days for Girls – Mary reported that the group averages producing 65 kits per month. The group will be moving to the St. Louis Room in June or July. A group from Missouri requested that they be allowed to attend one of the Ames' meetings to learn what to do. For CyServe Mary said that there will be 8-10 students coming to the Oscar Romero Room on April 7 from 12-3 P.M. A group from Bethesda wants to learn what we do. A quilters' meeting in Missouri in September will have Days for Girls as its service project and volunteers are being sought to help.
 14. Additional concerns. None.
- E. Prayer/Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer.