

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

April 16, 5:30 PM, Oscar Romero Room

Present: Mary Ross, Doreen Berg, Jarrett Wendt, Deacon Ron Smith, Rosemary and Jim Wilson, John Wilson, Barb Moore, Nancy Heideman, Julie Haas, Cynthia Shriver

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

- A. Call to Order – Doreen called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.
- B. Opening prayer – Ron led the opening prayer.
- C. Welcome & introductions
- D. Thank you, Mary Ross. A small reception was held to thank Mary for her many years of excellent service as committee chair.

BUSINESS MEETING

- A. MINUTES/MARCH – Cynthia. Minutes were approved with the following corrections. Heading, Heidelman to Heideman, ¶D8, line 2, remove Rev., π D9, line 1, Jarred to Jarrett.
- B. CORRESPONDENCE
Thank you notes: MICA - Monthly support of the food pantry and March and April monetary donations.
- C. FINANCIALS –Doreen expressed the hope that by July 1 we would have a new budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Committee members were asked to think about what they would like to see in it. Some preliminary topics were: 1. Financial help for the Community ID program, 2. Support of Martha's House of Hope, 3. Mental health funding, 4. Increase in funding for Home for Awhile, 5. Review of funds donated to YSS' Stork Nest program. Doreen commented that Martha's House of Hope is not diocesan approved and Father Jim said that we could support it as individuals but not as a parish. Monetary Receipts in March: \$4,123.33, Estimated Value of Food Shelf Contributions (405 pounds x \$1.60) = \$648.00, Disbursements: \$3,782.02. Bank Balance as of February 28, 2018: \$73,702.56. Bank Balance as of March 31, 2018:\$74,043.87. Discretionary Funds Available: \$7,119.52. May Special Allocations: \$250.00 to Story County Community Housing.
- D. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Quarterly Newsletter/Bulletin Board - Please submit ideas for the bulletin board and the newsletter to Lynn. Possible topics include the jail ministry and mental health.
 2. Wings of Refuge, a faith-based restoration home that serves survivors of human trafficking will have an information meeting April 24, from 9 - 10:30, at Cornerstone regarding their interest in moving from Iowa Falls to Ames. Doreen will attend the meeting. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend.
- E. OLD BUSINESS
 1. St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive – Sponsored by Parish Life Committee
April 8 Witness article by Linnea Dolan <https://www.thewitnessonline.org/stewardship/ames-area-parishes-clothing-drive-supports-st-vincent-de-paul/>
 2. Rice Bowl – Cynthia reported that as of April 18, \$4,966.00 has been collected for the rice bowl. This may not be the final amount since donations trickle in for weeks. She will contact the diocese regarding how the donated money is allocated.
 3. Story County Housing Trust-Doreen. We are waiting to learn which projects have been funded.
 4. 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/> A meeting will be held in May.
 5. AMOS – Nancy reported that AMOS is in the preliminary stage of working on the Community ID program. They are putting together talking points for finding funding support as well as for getting other agencies involved. The Ames Police Department and the Story County office support the idea. This document is intended to be used by anyone who needs it, the homeless, immigrants, etc. It cannot be used for voting, driving, or travel. Start up funds are estimated to be ~\$7,500.00-\$15,000.00 for computers and general office expenses. There will be a nominal charge to clients.
 6. Pastoral Council – Jarret. During the next few years, the bishop will be addressing priest retirement, the seminary fund, and the renovation of the Cathedral in Dubuque. The council has

the SJ initiatives that Jarrett emailed previously to committee members.

7. Initiatives for Social Justice - Jarrett/Sarah. Jarrett presented two designs for the SJ brochure. The preferred design connects the SJ programs with the Works of Mercy. It was suggested that more of the smaller SJ programs be incorporated into the Works of Mercy concept and explain that there is overlap among the programs.
 8. Committee reports:
 - a. Good Samaritan. Lynn is approaching young families to help with cart and food transfer to MICA.
 - * March 17/18 food pantry donation **405#**
 - * April 21/22 envelopes, cart and food transfer - Tom & Dorothy Sally
 - b. Hunger Collaboration - Doreen (no report - no meeting this month)
 - c. Food at First - Doreen (March average 57.8 meals per day)
 - d. Good Neighbor - A board position will be opening.
 - e. Restorative Justice - Barb reported that the jail ministry is going strong
 - *Butterfly House - There are three residents and all is okay.
 - *Matthew 25 House - Ron. Nothing new.
 - f. Individual Assistance - Ron. There have been many requests for assistance this month.
 - g. Emergency Residence Project - Julie. Carrie is putting together a new board member packet. The 2018-19 budget is tighter than usual, so the treasurer will have to monitor it closely. ASSET grant funds have been spent down but ERP continues to receive a monthly stipend from United Way. Carrie will submit a request to have the Regional-Rehousing program (RRH) included by ASSET in June. There are 2 units open in transitional housing. The RRH program will potentially be up and running on May 1. Reggie's sleepout was cancelled due to the weather but it did still raise \$11,000.00.
 - h. Sanctity of Life - Garland
 - Video: a son's meeting with his birth mother who nearly aborted him - Doreen encouraged committee members to view the video. It is very good.
 - <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=I+lived+on+parker+avenue&view=detail&mid=A80874A49A2769A7F840A80874A49A2769A7F840&FORM=VIRE>. Minutes of the April 8 meeting were included in the packet. Current projects are: selling flowers after Masses on Mother's Day, planning an event for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Humana Vitae, and working on several fronts for Informed Choices.
 - i. Home for Awhile - Mary stated that there are many applicants. So many of them have no chance of getting back on their feet in three months.
 - j. Days for Girls - Mary. DFG hosted 4 students from CyServe on Tuesday and on Thursday students from ISU Rotaract will come to help.
 9. Additional concerns. Terry Lowman, from UUFA has organized a peace and justice march for April 29. Participants will gather at 3 PM at Brookside Park and will march to Bandshell Park. This is an ecumenical movement not only for peace and justice but to affirm religious freedom. Information will be in the next two bulletins, emails, and posters. Someone is needed to lead the prayer. The prayer needs to be inclusive. Suggestions for songs and a bullhorn are also sought. St. Cecilia is co-sponsoring the event.
- F. Prayer/Adjournment