

# Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

May 21, 2018, 7:00PM, Oscar Romero Room

Present: Mary Ross, Doreen Berg, Julie Haas, Deacon Ron Smith, Jarrett Wendt, Jean Boot, Cynthia Shriver  
Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

- A. Call to Order - Doreen called the meeting to order.
- B. Opening prayer - Ron led the opening prayer.
- C. Welcome & introductions - None.
- D. In Service - Suspended due to budget discussions.

## BUSINESS MEETING

- A. MINUTES/MARCH corrected and APRIL draft – The corrected March minutes and the April minutes were **approved by consensus**.
- B. CORRESPONDENCE
  - Thank you notes: MICA - Monthly support of Story County Dental Clinic, Ames Ecumenical, Inc. monetary donation
  - Newsletters/Annual Reports: Butterfly Freedom House; Story County Community Housing Corporation annual report
- C. FINANCIALS - Jean
  - a. April Financial Report. Monetary Receipts: \$4,089.08, Estimated Value of Food Shelf Contributions (485 pounds x \$1.60): \$708.80. Disbursements: \$3,448.85. Bank Balance as of April 30, 2018: \$74,684.10. Discretionary Funds Available: \$7,309.05. Budget Balance paid to Food at First in April: \$199.68 (includes correction from February). May's Special Allocations: National Alliance for Mental Health, \$250.00.
  - b. 2018/2019 Budget Discussion. Jean distributed a proposed budget for 2018-19. Several changes were made and will be incorporated and presented at the next meeting.
  - c. Discretionary Funds Discussion. Postponed due to time constraints.
- D. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Pastoral Council – Jarrett reported that the council discussed the Community ID program. St. Cecilia is an official sponsor. There was also an update on the proposed remodel of the worship space.
- E. OLD BUSINESS
  - 1. Quarterly Newsletter/Bulletin Board – Lynn is still soliciting ideas for the bulletin board. The quarterly STC SJ newsletter was distributed via the bulletin on the weekend of May 19/20.
  - 2. Rice Bowl – Cynthia reported that the total contributions were \$5,018.20 as of May 14. More may trickle in but normally it is just a few dollars. The school's contribution to the above total was \$537.95. Cynthia called the diocese and was told that the rice bowl funds would be distributed as usual, a small portion remains in the diocese and the bulk is given to CRS.
  - 3. Respect Life and Social Justice formation. <https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/respect-life/respect-life-and-social-justice-formation-for-all/> Ron announced that there will be a program, June 28, on freedom of religion.
  - 4. Wings of Refuge, a faith based restoration home that serves survivors of human trafficking. Carol Nelson attended the April 24 informational meeting. The group is hoping to move from Iowa Falls to Ames. Information regarding the organization's history and expansion plans was distributed. For additional information please visit [info@wingsofrefuge.net](mailto:info@wingsofrefuge.net). Regarding Martha's House of Hope they will know by late July whether it will become a reality.
  - 5. AMOS – Nancy. No report.
    - a. Community ID Program. See Jarrett's comments in D.a.
    - b. AMOS Economic Summit - June 2, 2018, Norwalk Iowa
  - 6. Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance – Nancy is willing to give monthly reports to the committee.
  - 7. Committee reports:
    - a. Good Samaritan
      - \* April 21/22 food pantry donation **443#**
      - \* May 19/20 envelopes, cart and food transfer - Terry and Lynn Franco

Doreen will check with MICA to get an updated figure for the number they use to estimate the monetary value of donated items. There was a discussion regarding the GS envelopes being in the pews (in their designated holders) throughout the month. Many committee members feel strongly that the GS envelopes should remain in the holders during the entire month. It was suggested that another line be added to the front title of the envelope indicating that the envelope is for the social justice ministry only, a collection that occurs once a month and is not part of the weekly Mass offering. We were reminded that we should not overload the pews with paper. The issue is should we have a welcoming brochure and if so, where to put it. Jarrett reported that 25% of the parish is new within the last four years. Jarrett distributed a revised version of the SJ brochure that he has been working on. Additional comments and suggestions were solicited from committee members.

- b. Hunger Collaboration – Doreen. Notes from the March 15 and March 21 were distributed. Doreen pointed out that based on calculations made by Jim Gaunt, in order to eliminate the summer dip in the meal gap curve (due to the loss of the school lunch programs), an additional \$11,100 in funding is needed. FAF is not a member of the Hunger Coalition and is not included nor represented at the meetings.
- c. Food at First – Doreen (April average 65.6 meals per day) All is well.
- d. Good Neighbor – Phyllis. A new director, Lorie Allen, has been hired. She formerly was a liaison to ISU for ACCESS. There will be a small (per Mike’s request) reception for Mike on June 14.
- e. Restorative Justice - Barb. Saturday meetings at the jail continue to be held and have reasonable attendance.
  - \*Butterfly House – Barb. Ron has been asked by the Butterfly House to lead a mentor training program on June 5.
  - \*Matthew 25 House – Ron. No report
- f. Individual Assistance – Ron. Lots of activity mostly for gas.
- g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie. A shelter coordinator still needs to be hired. Shelter hours will change July 1. A safety drill schedule is being developed as well as new Board of Directors by-laws. Carrie is working with Troy to develop housing case plans. Two families successfully exited the Transitional Housing Program in May. New applications to the program are being taken. The rapid rehousing program has one family entering the program. A person from the corporate realm will join the Board. The staff is working with the City, Salvation Army and the County to streamline homelessness prevention assistance which will include a centralized point for applications and information gathering. The Property Committee has been active working on inspection forms and purchasing and installing a variety of safety items.
- h. Sanctity of Life – Garland. No report.
- i. Home for Awhile – Mary. **The committee passed by consensus the allocation of rent (\$6,000.00) and utilities (\$2,100.00) to HFA for another year.** These funds will be allocated from the 2016 anonymous bequest. The \$8,100.00 allocation will pay for an apartment that was offered by Julie and Bill Haas for below market rent to HFA through the SJ committee.
- j. Days for Girls – Mary. There is a bit of a back-up of hygiene kits since Blessman has limited times and space to transport the kits to South Africa. Mary is looking for additional locations to send the kits. The sewing groups will move to the St. Louis room in June.

#### 9. Additional concerns

- E. Prayer/Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer.