

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

April 19, 2021, 7:00PM, via ZOOM

In Attendance: Doreen Berg, Jean Boot, Father Don, Barb Moore, Patty Huisenga, Lynn Franco, Deacon Ron Smith, John Wilson, Julie Haas, Mary Ross, Jarrett Wendt, Garland Dahlke, Cynthia Shriver
Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

1. Call to Order – Doreen Berg
2. Opening prayer – Deacon Ron
3. Welcome & Introductions

BUSINESS MEETING

A. MINUTES

- a. March Draft Minutes – Cynthia Shriver. Minutes approved by consensus.

- B. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Thank you: Food at First, NAMI, The Bridge Home, Primary Health Care. Newsletter: The Bridge Home, Good Neighbor. Information: The Rose Affordable Assisted Living Communities – accepts Medicaid, Elderly Waiver, Section 8 rental subsidies) roseofamesadmin@rosecommunities-alf.com

C. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Pastoral Council – Mike Brown/Father Don. Work is continuing on the budget, nominations for elections and redoing the sound system.
- b. Primary Health Care – Additional Services Offered – Father Don. Presently the SJ Committee contributes to Primary Care with the funds being earmarked for vaccinations and potentially for dental care. As a result of a change in government guidelines, emergency contraception is now being offered by them. There is a concern that the parish would be indirectly associated/supporting a group that provides abortions. There was much discussion on how to resolve this. In the end, it was agreed by consensus that the money that would have been given to Primary Care in April, May, and June for vaccinations be redirected to Catholic Charities in Ames and earmarked for mental health assistance. There was no decision regarding the Dental Clinic and that money will be put on hold. Doreen will ask if we could contribute to the Dental Clinic portion of Primary Care and make the checks out clearly to the dental division. The SJ Brochure will be updated as necessary. Doreen suggested that a small group of committee members meet to have a dedicated conversation regarding the details and the mechanics of the anticipated changes in SJ funding for the next fiscal year.
- c. CRS Rice Bowl - Cynthia reported that a total of \$3,430.93 was donated to the Rice Bowl this year with \$450.93 of that amount being given by the students and staff in the school and faith formation classes. Thank you notes will be sent to the students and results will be acknowledged in the bulletin.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Respect Life and Social Justice Formation – Ron. No new information.
2. Advocacy/Publicity – Lynn Franco
*Bulletin Boards. Lynn put up the display on the rolling bulletin board in the Narthex and updated the bulletin board at the entrance to the worship space with information dealing with Earth Day.
3. Committee Reports
 - a. Good Samaritan - Lynn
*March food pantry donation – 1013.5 pounds (included Boy Scout collection) – Tom Sally
*April cart/sign/food delivery – Gordie Miller
*369 pounds collected in April
 - b. AMOS – Sara Rooney – Ames Move Forward Campaign. Sarah and Doreen have agreed to conduct three individual conversations and one group conversation with times and dates to be announced. The conversations are a way for AMOS to learn how the pandemic affected individuals and what they need as a result of it. If you are interested in participating in a conversation, please contact Doreen.
 - c. Immigrants and Refuge Committee, ASIP, AIRA – Nancy Heideman. Written reports available. \$296,230.40 in donations have been received by the Covid-19 Emergency Fund and \$264,841.50 has been distributed. An average of \$24,000 per month is allocated.
 - d. Hunger Collaboration – Doreen/Patty Huisenga. Written March and April meeting minutes are available. Highlights include the Live United Food Drive scheduled for April 26-May 6, and the

Summer School program.

- e. Food at First –Julie (March 2982 meals/96 meals per day average). Mustard Seed is looking for volunteers. Julie reported a slight decrease in the number of people coming for the meals and less families at the free market. They are hoping to raise money for a new floor, stove and painting.
- f. Good Neighbor – Charlie Weber. Minutes containing assistance statistics are available. GN will be one of the recipients of the Altrusa Garden Tour Fundraiser to be held on June 5
- g. The Bridge Home f/k/a Emergency Residence Project – Ben Kellen. Minutes available. Offices have been moved to the duplex upstairs. They are doing well financially.
- h. Sanctity of Life – Garland Dahlke. Written report available. Obria statistics were reported. Sanctity of Life will have a portion of the kiosk in April through June with Mother and Father Day themes. Martha’s House has enough supplies but needs money for rent, utilities and general operations.
- i. Climate Action Team (CAT) – John Wilson. Written report available. CAT meetings are ongoing. Anyone wanting to contribute to the Sunsmart Solar Power program should contact Kayley at 515-239-5177. Each Power Pack is sold as a unit and costs \$300.
* Celebration of Life – Fall 2021. It is likely that there will be a Celebration of Life event on October 3 or 10. John is looking for two to three volunteers. Lynn and Patty agreed to help. Julie will send John a list of possible volunteers.
- j. Jail Ministry –Barb Moore. Reflections for Sundays are continuing to be provided. Two new residents to the House are coming.
*Matthew 25 House – Deacon Ron. No new information.
- k. Home for Awhile – Mary Ross. Written report available. Volunteers are in the process of readying an apartment that sustained some damage by the previous occupants.
- l. Days for Girls – Mary Ross. Written report available. DFG gave 20 kits to the food pantry in Nevada after the director expressed an interest in having them. 120 kits were donated to Chad and another 40 will go to the Central African Republic
- m. Saving Suds Laundry Project – Mary Ross. The project has ~\$800 in their account and they distribute ~\$75 in quarters each month. Mary should receive a report from the St.Andrews/Bethesda meeting to learn more. St. Andrews, the lead congregation, is considering joining Laundry Love, a national group.
- n. Make Their Hearts Smile (Elderly/Disabled Outreach) – Julie Haas. This is a new initiative which will provide residents with child art or notes of caring for the elderly or disabled. They will be distributed to Senior Care Homes and to individuals. St. Cecilia School and Faith Formation classes will participate and parish members will also be invited to participate. The program will not be launched until fall.
Julie will work one on one with residents at Accura Health Care of Ames to determine their individuals needs for specialty items including funds for travel and dining.

E. FINANCIALS

- a. February Financial Report (Final). Reviewed.
- b. March Financial Report (Tentative). Reviewed. Jean reported that there are more months than not that we fall short of our anticipated revenue. This means that we are losing discretionary funds as we proceed to the end of the budget year. If this continues, we will have to use the earmarked funds.
- c. Request Support: One Heart Catholic Mission/Dawn Aitchison - June Mission Trip. A request for funding was delayed since the trip is scheduled for June. Doreen will check with Father Don to learn if we are able to contribute as a parish.

F. Additional Concerns. John will put together a list of available resources from the city such rebates and energy audits that are available. We will plan to meet in person for the June meeting but the meeting will also be available on Zoom.

H. Closing Prayer - Deacon Ron. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer.