

# Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

August 16, 2021, 7:00PM, in person

Present: Deacon Ron Smith, Jarrett Wendt, Julie Haas, John Wilson, Steve Bond, Barb Moore, Jean Boot, Ben Kellen, Cynthia Shriver

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

1. Call to Order – Deacon Ron
2. Opening prayer – Deacon Ron
3. Welcome & Introductions. Steve Bond was introduced to the committee. He will be the committee's liaison to Pastoral Council.

## BUSINESS MEETING

### A. MINUTES

- a. July Draft Minutes – Cynthia Shriver. Minutes were approved by consensus.

- ### B. CORRESPONDENCE:
- Thank you: Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, Inc., Catholic Charities, The Bridge Home.

### C. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Pastoral Council – Father Don. No new information.

### D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Advocacy/Publicity – Lynn Franco.

\*August newsletter. Thanks to Lynn for an informative August newsletter. On the second page of the newsletter under *Social Justice Contacts* it was suggested that Individual Assistance be added.

\*Bulletin Boards. Continues to be updated.

2. Committee Reports – Annual Reporting Calendar – Jarrett Wendt. Jarrett proposed a change in the frequency of committee reports being presented at meetings. He suggested two annual reports and four quarterly report for each committee. The written reports would continue to be submitted monthly. Anything timely, such as an announcement of a fundraiser, would be under a different agenda heading rather than under Committee Reports. No decisions were made.

- a. Good Samaritan – Lynn

\*Black Bag Updates. This is a work in progress. We need to work with the office to clarify mechanisms.

\*July food pantry donation – 530 pounds – Tom Sally

\*August cart/sign/food delivery – Lynn and Terry Franco

\*August cart/sign/envelopes/food delivery – Lynn and Terry Franco

- b. AMOS – Sara Rooney. No new information.

- c. Immigrants and Refuge Committee – Nancy Heideman. Written report available. \$353,414.04 has been received and \$328,871.97 has been distributed. Donations have been declining. They are now asking applicants to apply first by using the new centralized form at Story County Community Services. Because of the increasing numbers of Covid cases and because there are still a number of applicants that are underemployed or unemployed, the committee will continue to operate.

- d. Hunger Collaboration – Doreen. No new information.

- e. Food at First – Julie (July 2729 meals/88 meals per day average)

- f. Good Neighbor – Charlie Weber. Written minutes and assistance reports are available. There will be a block party fundraiser on September 19. FAF is collaborating with GN and the GN work study students are planning the event. Faith communities will be invited to help.

- g. The Bridge Home – Ben Kellen. The agency is hiring a gift officer. The Volunteer Center of Story County is closing. The agency is working with several entities to identify and assist more individuals.

- h. Sanctity of Life – Garland Dahlke. Minutes are available. Representatives from OBRIA attended the meeting and presented information on the workings of OBRIA.

- i. Climate Action Team (CAT) – John Wilson. Written report available. CAT members received training on building leadership skills that can be applied to the Ames initiatives. They are interested in expanding the committee to include other groups.
- \* Celebration of Life – October 3, 2021 1:00 p.m. Written report available. The committee is now in the planning stage. The basic theme is that the Earth is home for all, and we are caretakers of creation not dominators of it.
- j. Jail Ministry. The SC jail ministry has opened up via Zoom.
  - \*Butterfly House – Barb Moore. There are currently two residents.
  - \*Matthew 25 House – Deacon Ron. The house continues to be full with 11 individuals being on the waiting list. The home accommodates five individuals. They are starting another house, *Disciple House*, for men wanting to be living in the community.
- k. Days for Girls – Mary Ross. Written report available. The group hosted a service project with 5<sup>th</sup> graders at STC's VBS on August 3. Kits are currently being sent to a collection point in Utah.
- l. Home For Awhile – Mary Ross. Written report available. The newest tenants are a grandmother recovering from breast cancer and her granddaughter.
- m. Saving Suds Laundry Project – Mary Ross. No new information.
- n. Make Their Hearts Smile (Elderly/Disabled Outreach) – Julie Haas. The program will start on the weekend of September 18/19. It will coincide with Good Samaritan Black Bag Weekend. \*
- o. Ames Ecumenical Housing –A board member replacement is still needed.

**E. FINANCIALS**

- a. June Financial Report (Final) – Jean Boot. Reviewed.
- b. July Financial Report (Tentative) – Jean Boot. Reviewed.
- c. Good Samaritan Black Bag Recipients – Individual Assistance for July. It is still not clear what monies will go to the featured agency/agencies of the month. Some of the issues that need to be addressed are: only checks and cash placed in the black bag on GS weekend be credited to the featured agency/agencies, will electronic deposits received by the STC office during the month be credited to that month's featured agency/agencies or to STCSJ committees discretionary funds, will unanticipated decreases in the amount an agency received compared to the STCSJ 2019 budget be supplemented from the parish's tithe or from the committee's discretionary funds and if so, will that be decided monthly, quarterly, annually. Historically, a significant amount of money was received at times other than on the GS weekend. This was not taken into consideration when formulating the new procedure. In conjunction with Father Don's thoughts, this will need to be discussed at the next meeting. It appears that there will need to be extensive interaction with the office, and will that be a burden to either side? What will be the frequency and format of the treasurer's report to the committee? How will quarterly or annual contributions to the SG Fund be handled? Discussions will continue.
- d. Crop Walk Request – Jean Boot. No new information.

**F. SOCIAL JUSTICE VISIONING** – Jarrett Wendt. Jarrett shared a list of foundational documents on Social Justice. Discussions will continue next month.

**G. ADDITIONAL CONCERNS.** John suggested that if our community gets refugees from Afghanistan, we should be prepared to assist them as well as immigrants from our southern border.

**H. CLOSING PRAYER** - Deacon Ron. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer.

\* Plans have changed and the topic will be discussed at the September meeting.