

# Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

February 15, 2021, 7:00PM, via ZOOM

In Attendance: Jarrett Wendt, Mary Ross, Julie Haas, Doreen Berg, Father Don, John Wilson, Charlie Weber, Jean Boot, Lynn Franco, Cynthia Shriver  
Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

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

## BUSINESS MEETING

### A. MINUTES

- a. December Amended Minutes – Cynthia Shriver. Approved by consensus.
- b. January Draft Minutes. Approved by consensus.

### B. CORRESPONDENCE: – Thank you – The Bridge Home (Continued Support), Unbound (\$225.00)

### C. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Pastoral Council – Mike Brown/Father Don. Plans for the columbarium are moving forward. The Council is looking at different ways of investing for the long term. Father has brought up the possibility of the SJ Committee receiving money each month from the church's funds to distribute to social justice issues.
- b. CRS Rice Bowl – Cynthia Shriver. Parishioners can pick up Rice Bowls, Calendars, and Donation envelopes at a table the entrance to the Narthex. Rice Bowls and calendars were given to the school and to faith formation staff. Weekly announcements will appear in the bulletin and in Let's Stay Connected. Display materials were posted on the SJ bulletin board. A brief history of CRS Rice Bowl will appear in the February SJ bulletin.
- c. ACCESS (Assault Care Center Extending Shelter & Support) - Learn about ACCESS services and their 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, St. Cecilia Parish Zoom meeting - February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/97578694407?pwd=Lzk5OTIydWNmekNYR2VRQ1MvRXNPUT09>  
Meeting ID: 975 7869 4407  
Passcode: 946649

### D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Respect Life and Social Justice formation – Ron. No new information.
2. Advocacy/Publicity – Lynn Franco.
  - \*Bulletin Boards.
  - \*February Newsletter. The newsletter will be included in next weekend's bulletin. AMOS and CRS Rice Bowl will be featured. Lynn would appreciate help on Friday around 8:30 am to stuff the bulletins. John volunteered. Lynn will put together information for the rolling bulletin board that she has reserved for April, May and June. We need to look at the SJ brochure to see if it needs updating. Jarrett is able to print copies if needed.
3. Committee Reports
  - a. Good Samaritan – Lynn.
    - \*January food pantry donation – 467 pounds – Gordie Miller
    - \*February cart/sign/food delivery – Tina Richard
  - b. AMOS – Looking for Parish Representative. There will be an Ames Cluster meeting on March 7 at 3:30 pm regarding Ames policing procedures. See written report.
  - c. Immigrants and Refugee Committee – Nancy Heideman. Written report available. \$224,570.79 has been collected and \$217,733.32 has been distributed for rent and utilities to 109 different households. St. Cecilia is acting as the groups non-profit sponsor and is taking care of all financial duties. Donations are barely keeping up. ASIP-The onsite apartment that CUMC wanted to fix up for an immigrant or a family is on hold. ICE is not cooperating with providing their unique id's for detainees in the Story County Jail. As a result, ASIP volunteers will not know where the detainees get moved to.

- d. Hunger Collaboration – Doreen. No new information.
- e. Food at First –Julie. January meals: total 2,896, average 93/day. Patty has identified a couple of new chefs but there are still a lot of head chef openings in March.
- f. Good Neighbor – Charlie Weber. Discussions are on-going to move Good Neighbor month from April to November. We will not hold/reschedule a 2020 fundraiser for GN that was cancelled because of Covid. We will put the date for the 2021 Christmas Market fundraiser on the church’s calendar ASAP. Written board minutes and assistance statistics are available.
- g. The Bridge Home f/k/a Emergency Residence Project – Ben Kellen. November and December board minutes are available as well as the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study Summary and Recommendations. The feasibility study for the new shelter continues to be evaluated.
- h. Sanctity of Life – Garland Dahlke. Written report available. 40 Days of Life starts this week.
- i. Climate Action Team (CAT) – John Wilson. Written report available. It appears the City will be hiring a climate action coordinator (person or agency). John will make inquiries regarding support for another Celebration of Life event.
- j. Jail Ministry
  - \*Butterfly House – Barb Moore. The committee has continued to do interviews but because of Covid there is only one resident in the house.
  - \*Matthew 25 House – Deacon Ron. No new information.
- k. Home for Awhile – Mary Ross. The next meeting via Zoom is on February 16. A couple is being evicted since they did not pay rent and honor what they agreed to do
- l. Days for Girls – Mary Ross. The group continues to meet twice a month in the afternoon. The group is preparing kits for the Central African Republic. Other outlets for the kits are being researched.

**E. FINANCIALS**

- a. December Financial Report (Final). Reviewed.
- b. January Financial Report (Tentative). Reviewed.
- c. **By consensus, the committee agreed to donate \$500.00 to the Café El Zapote Agriculture Development Fund) requested by Brandon Walls.** This one time donation will come from the Wellspring Mission line which will not be funded this year because of Covid restraints on travel. The donation to Save the Rain will proceed as budgeted.

**F. Additional Concerns.** A concern was expressed about nursing home residents who do not have access to any spending money for personal care products or the occasional dinner or trip out. It was recognized that we would need to have a close relationship with the care center to insure that the program is successful and trustworthy. Julie agreed to check with area nursing homes and speak with directors and social workers to learn what is feasible. Another suggestion was to add a card box to our Good Samaritan Weekend activities and encourage parishioners to write/send generic cards to individuals that could be given to nursing home residents who do not have much interaction with anyone.

**H. Closing Prayer - Deacon Ron, Father Don**