

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

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

In Attendance: Deacon Ron, Doreen Berg, Mary Ross, Julie Haas, Jarrett Wendt, Jean Boot, John Wilson, Cynthia Shriver

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

1. Call to Order – Doreen Berg
2. Opening prayer – Deacon Ron. *Holy Women of God, Pray for Us*
3. Welcome & Introductions

BUSINESS MEETING

A. MINUTES

- a. February Draft Minutes – **The February draft minutes were approved by consensus.**

B. CORRESPONDENCE:

C. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Pastoral Council – Mike Brown/Father Don. Topics covered included the columbarium, the facilities agreement update, the security system update, finances, long term facilities budgeting and elections.
- b. CRS Rice Bowl – Cynthia Shriver. No new information.
- c. Wings of Refuge Open House – March 27, 9-5 (limit of 2-3 per church leadership). Doreen will attend the open house. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Doreen.
- d. Saving Suds Laundry Project – Mary Ross. Mary described a program that St. Andrews has undertaken. It involves supplying money (quarters) and laundry detergent to individuals using coin operated commercial laundry facilities. Presently, a representative is stationed at the facility on the third Thursday of the month and distributes quarters and detergent to interested people. Bethesda Lutheran has recently agreed to take the first Thursday of the month. We could play a role by either taking one of the other Thursdays and/or donating money. We will think about the offer since this would fit in nicely under our Outreach activities.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Respect Life and Social Justice Formation – Ron. No information.
2. Advocacy/Publicity – Lynn Franco
 - *Bulletin Board
 - *February Newsletter. The newsletter went out with Amos and the Rice Bowl being featured
3. Committee Reports
 - a. Good Samaritan - Lynn
 - *February food pantry donation – 495 pounds – Barb and Pat Tallman
 - *March cart/sign/food delivery – Tom Sally (will include Scouts Food Drive)
 - b. AMOS – Sara Rooney has volunteered to be the representative for STC. Thank you Sara and welcome.
 - c. Immigrants and Refuge Committee – Nancy Heideman. Written report available. \$248,540.79 received. \$231,324.92 distributed. 111 different households served. There are written reports for ASIP, AIRA, and the AMOS County Coordination Committee available.
 - d. Hunger Collaboration – Doreen. Written report available.
 - e. Food at First – Julie (February 2485 meals/89 meals per day average). The number of clients serves fluctuates but chefs are typically cooking 120 meals. The number of clients served vs the number of meals prepared is different. The question was raised as to whether we could also keep a record of the number of meals actually prepared. Julie will speak with Patty. Patty is getting a good response for new chefs but more are always needed.
 - f. Good Neighbor – Charlie Weber. The January and February board minutes as well as assistance statistics are available in written format.

- g. The Bridge Home f/k/a Emergency Residence Project – Ben Kellen. No new information.
- h. Sanctity of Life – Garland Dahlke. Written minutes are available.
- i. Climate Action Team (CAT) – John Wilson. Written report available. A Climate Action Plan consultant/firm will be hired by the City of Ames by the end of March. There will also be a Climate Action Community Planning Input Task Force. More information including an application form for serving on the task force can be obtained from John or downloaded at <https://www.cityofames.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=60651>. The information will be placed in the bulletin.
 - * Celebration of Life – Fall 2021. John reported that a lot of time is required to organize the event and time is limited. It is not clear whether there is anyone who is willing to take on a leadership position. If anyone is interested, please let John know.
- j. Jail Ministry
 - *Butterfly House – Barb Moore. There is one person in the house. The Jail Ministry is not in operation because of Covid but prepared Sunday reflections are welcome. Barb will coordinate this. Two individuals have been hired by Catholic Charities to coordinate the ministry.
 - *Matthew 25 House – Deacon Ron. No new information.
- k. Home for Awhile – Mary Ross. Written report available. An eviction did occur so there are two apartments that can be assigned.
- l. Days for Girls – Mary Ross. Written report available. One hundred and twenty kits will be sent to Chad for a Days for Girls international project. The group continues to meet.
- m. Nursing Home Outreach – Julie Haas. The committee’s initial intent was to provide residents who have no funds for special activities the opportunity to participate by covering the extra costs. Julie contacted area nursing homes and received only one response. After much discussion, a modified plan was agreed upon. Julie, working through a nursing home staff member, will respond to specific needs of residents who have no other options, and purchase items they need. She will be reimbursed by the committee. Funds will come out of Outreach. Additionally, Julie and Doreen will meet to discuss the idea of having parishioners and school children provide cards/drawings that could be distributed to nursing home residents.

E. FINANCIALS

- a. January Financial Report (Final) and the February Financial Report (Tentative) were discussed. (Jean Boot)
- b. Request for Support: ACCESS 45th Anniversary Campaign. **By consensus, we agreed to donate \$100 to ACCESS’s anniversary campaign and \$50 to the Saving Suds project.**
- c. Jarrett presented an example of how a new approach to SJ donations might work. Each month a specific agency or agencies would be specified the weekend before the collection as the recipient(s) of that month’s donation. The information would be given to parishioners by lector and bulletin announcements or even setting up displays in the Narthex. He illustrated how we could continue to fund our existing agencies at the same level (or higher) that we have done previously. We would also incorporate the funds that would be given to the committee by the church itself. He emphasized that this was just one example of how we might proceed. Many details have not yet been worked out and will need further discussion (one or two collections, using the black bag, cash in the collection, timeline for distribution of funds to agencies, amount of time allowed in the lector announcements to describe the agency/agencies of the month, etc.). Additionally, ways of obtaining input from the parish about social justice issues was discussed as well as perhaps changing the frequency of committee reports as part of the monthly meetings of the SJ committee.

F. Additional Concerns

Doreen suggested having an electronic drop box for the monthly committee reports. Currently, reports are emailed to her and she forwards them on to committee members. Jarrett will set it up.

G. Closing Prayer - Deacon Ron. *The Memorare.*