

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes
November 15, 2021, 7:00PM, in person

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

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

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

BUSINESS MEETING

A. MINUTES

1. October Draft Minutes – Cynthia Shriver. Minutes accepted by consensus.

B. CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you – MICA

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Pastoral Council – Father Don/Barbara Schnoes. The major effort of the Parish Council this year has been on the proposed remodeling. Father Don gave an excellent presentation of what is being planned and why at weekend Masses this past week.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Outreach

- a. Ames Catholic Worker House (Romero House) – John Wilson. John will be attending a meeting tomorrow to learn more about the workings of the Romero House. Their website lists the kinds of things they need. Volunteers are needed to prepare Saturday night meals and to help with construction projects. This is housing for men who are homeless or transitioning from incarceration. John will report back to the committee next month.
- b. Ames Ecumenical Housing Inc. – Ken Berg. Written report available. The group is refinancing their mortgage which will allow them to do some remodeling and repairing of the building.
- c. Climate Action Team – John Wilson. Written report available. The City Council has moved the target date for settling a climate action goal to sometime in December. To sign a Climate Action Team petition advocating a quick climate action response at all levels, including the city, go to amesclimateaction.org.
The Vatican is launching a 7-year Action Platform and a national campaign to promote it. The theme is “We’re All Part of God’s Planet”. Pope Francis sent a message to the Glasgow, Scotland climate summit asking world leaders to not delay the action required to avoid the worst catastrophes of climate change.
- d. Days for Girls – Mary Ross. No new information.
- e. Food at First – Julie Haas (October average meals 106). FAF will hold the community Thanksgiving meal with curb side pick-up and the mandatory wearing of masks. Many volunteers are needed and you can sign-up on their website.
The holiday Pass-Along -Party will be at Collegiate United Methodist Church (CUMC). New or gently used items (no clothes) are being collected. The donated items should be delivered to CUMC directly. Collection Dates are the following; November 20, 9-11 am, November 29, 3:30 to 8:30 pm, December 7, 12:30 to 6:00 pm.
- f. Good Samaritan Weekend
 1. MICA Food Pantry Collection – Lynn Franco
 - *October Food Pantry donations – 302 pounds (Barb and Pat Tallman)
 - *November cart/sign/food delivery – Tina Richard
 2. Good Samaritan – Black Bag Collection – Jarrett Wendt
 - *November 2021 Recipient(s) – Food at First and Home For Awhile. Space in the Narthex for setting up displays will be limited. The number of available tables on that weekend needs to

be determined since our Christmas Market is also being held at that time.

*December 2021 Recipient(s) – Martha’s House of Hope, Wings of Refuge, Obria Medical Clinics, Assault Care Center Extending Shelter & Support (ACCESS). Jarrett has contacted the relevant agencies and they have agreed to set up displays. Doreen has brochures explaining the functions of all of the agencies.

g. Hunger Collaboration – Doreen Berg. Written report available.

h. Immigrants and Refugees Committee – Nancy Heideman. No new information.

i. Prison Ministry – Ron Smith/Barb Moore. No new information.

j. Saving Suds – Mary Ross. Mary will check with St. Andrew’s to learn about what they want...volunteers, money or both. After we learn more, we will have a discussion on whether or not to make a monetary donation.

2. Advocacy

a. AMOS – Steve will attend the next meeting to learn specifics about AMOS including its relationship with the community. Steve has unique administrative experience with affordable housing having written grants for it.

b. Sanctity of Human Life – Garland Dahlke. Minutes are available.

3. Marketing

a. Bulletin Boards – Lynn Franco. The bulletin board has been updated, highlighting the upcoming Christmas Market. The Giving Tree and the Ames Alternative Gift Market are also featured.

b. Newsletter (April/July/October/January) - Lynn Franco. The postponed October newsletter was distributed on the weekend of November 13,14.

4. Events

a. Christmas Market – November 20/21 – Doreen Berg. Volunteers are needed for setup on Friday starting at 1 pm. Volunteers are also needed on November 20/21 before and after Masses. See Doreen.

b. Giving Tree Launch – November 20/21 – Cindy Baughman. Gift cards are very popular. You can purchase them through Scripts.

5. Agency Representative Reports

a. November 2021 – Martha’s House of Hope, Wings of Refuge, Obria Medical Clinics, Assault Care Center Extending Shelter & Support (ACCESS). The featured agencies were discussed. ACCESS no longer has a large shelter but smaller houses sprinkled around the community. ACCESS services are available to survivors of all genders, races, ethnicities, religions and abilities.

b. December 2021 - Matthew 25 House – Ron Smith. No new information. Butterfly Freedom House – Barb Moore. There is currently one resident at the Butterfly House.

E. FINANCIALS

1. September Financial Report (Final) – Jean Boot. Accepted as is.

2. October Financial Report (Tentative) – Jean Boot. There was a variety of transactions in October related to adhering to the guidelines used for the monthly black bag collection.

It was decided that Home for Awhile will be paid \$200 in November since they are on a very tight budget. Any money they receive from being a featured agency will not be dispersed until December.

Final figures of what agencies receive will not be available until the end of the year since the guidelines allow donations to be earmarked to a specific agency throughout the year.

It was suggested that the amount of money on Good Samaritan weekends collected for the featured agency/agencies be reported to the committee monthly even though it will not be a final figure.

E. ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Deacon Ron reported that the number of people needing help with utilities and rent is very high.

Due to a loss of some ASSET funding, The Bridge Home will no longer be helping clients with these items.

Individuals needing help can learn about supportive agencies through the agencies’ websites and from word of mouth.

F. SOCIAL JUSTICE VISIONING Jarrett. Postponed

G. CLOSING PRAYER. Deacon Ron. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer.