

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes– October 18, 2021, 7:00PM, in person

Present: Deacon Ron Smith, Steve Bond, Julie Haas, Doreen Berg, John Wilson, Jean Boot, Cynthia Shriver

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

1. Call to Order – Doreen Berg
2. Opening prayer – Deacon Ron. Readings and prayers on Evangelization.
3. Welcome & Introductions

BUSINESS MEETING

A. MINUTES

1. September Draft Minutes – Cynthia Shriver. The minutes were approved by consensus. It is noted that in the August minutes it was stated that Steve Bond was the pastoral council representative for our committee. This is not correct. Barbara Schnoes is our representative.

B. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Mustard Seed-thank you. St. Andrews Saving Suds-information and request for volunteers.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Pastoral Council – Father Don/Barbara Schnoes. No new information.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Outreach

- a. Ames Ecumenical Housing Inc. – Ken Berg. The group will meet tomorrow. The agency receives funding from HUD. They have some extra money which they hope to use for remodeling.
- b. Climate Action Team – John Wilson. Written report available. A target date for the implementation of the Ames Climate Action plan will be set by the Council. How immediate the target date is will influence the speed at which things will get done. City Council members are on board but letters of support to them would still be helpful.
- c. Days for Girls – Mary Ross. No new information.
- d. Food at First – Julie Haas (September average meals 94). See #5.
- e. Good Samaritan Weekend
 1. MICA Food Pantry Collection – Lynn Franco
 - *September Food Pantry donations – 390.5 pounds (Keith and Linda Huls)
 - *October cart/sign/food delivery – (302.0 pounds) Barb and Pat Tallman
 2. Good Samaritan – Black Bag Collection – Jarrett Wendt and Lynn Franco will take care of the bulletin announcements. ***October 2021 Recipient – The Bridge Home**
 - *November 2021 Recipient(s) – Food at First and Home For Awhile
 - In the future, a detailed breakdown of funds received by Social Justice in a particular month and how they were distributed will be included in the financial report.
- f. Hunger Collaboration – Doreen Berg. No new information. Doreen did mention the Malloween Truck and Treat celebration on October 28, 5-7 PM at North Grand Mall and the application procedure for LIHEAP. Flyers for both events are available.
- g. Immigrants and Refugees Committee – Nancy Heideman. Written report available. The financial component of the program will end December 31, 2021. Donations are still needed. If any money is left over, it will be given to Good Neighbor and the money will be earmarked for the originally specified purposes.
- h. Make Their Hearts Smile – Julie Haas. Written report available. The child art cards project will begin in January after the Fall and Christmas celebrations. The monthly birthday cards will begin to be sent when Julie receives them from the day school. The “sending notes component” to parishioners has been shelved primarily because of privacy issues. Julie will continue a version of this program personally but it will not be part of the SJ Committee.
- i. Prison Ministry – Ron Smith/Barb Moore. The program is back to being virtual.
- j. Saving Suds – Mary Ross. No new information. However, Bethesda Lutheran and St. Andrews are still looking for partners, volunteers, and funds.

2. Advocacy

- a. AMOS – no report. A parish representative is needed. There was much discussion on how AMOS functions as an organization (structure of the organization) and their funding sources. AMOS is primarily an advocacy group.
- b. Sanctity of Human Life – Garland Dahlke. The 5:30 PM mass on October 15 was offered in remembrance of pregnancy and infancy losses.

3. Marketing

- a. Bulletin Boards – Lynn Franco. Lynn will update the board in November featuring The Giving Tree and the Christmas Market.
- b. Newsletter (April/July/October/January) - Lynn Franco. The newsletter will come out on the weekend of November 13/14. It will feature the Giving Tree and Christmas Market. If there is anything you want in the newsletter, please send it to Lynn by November 5. Lynn needs two volunteers to help stuff the bulletins on November 12 at 8:30 AM. If you are available, please contact Lynn.

4. Events

- a. Celebration of Life –October 3, 2021, 1:00, St. Cecilia – John Wilson. Written report available. Representatives from at least five different faith congregations and the city of Ames gathered outside of St. Cecilia Church for an ecumenical celebration recognizing “The Earth is our Common Home”. Live music, Biblical readings, contemporary church statements on the importance of conserving the environment, and short presentations on what different faith congregations and the Ames community are working on to conserve energy were enjoyed. People could choose to bring up “commitment cards” as an offering to the altar table pledging to take specific actions during the next year for restoring a better balance with nature. Around 65 people attended.
- b. Christmas Market – November 20/21 – Doreen Berg. Applications for participating are on the Church’s website.
- c. Giving Tree Launch – November 20/21 – Cindy Baughman. This year gift cards and tags for specific items may be utilized.

5. Agency Representative Reports A new schedule for the monthly agency reports was given.

For the month of October.

October 2021 – *Home for Awhile* – Mary Ross. Postponed to next month.

Food at First – Julie Haas. The September average meal was 94. The market has been moved back indoors but there is no word on when indoor meals will be resumed. The number of stores supplying the gleaned food to FAF has decreased. The business size cards listing the place, days, and times for FAF markets and meals are still available.

E. FINANCIALS

1. Good Samaritan Black Bag Recipients –Monies Discussion CASH & CHECKS (weekend collection/during month) ACH/LPI, Retirement Disbursements. Written document available. There was extensive discussion on the SJ recipient schedule, the calendar for in-person reports by agency representatives, and definitions and policies for social justice funds received. *
2. August Financial Report (Final) – Jean Boot. Reviewed.
3. September Financial Report (Tentative) – Jean Boot. Reviewed. **By consensus, it was agreed to donate \$300 to the fundraiser for AMOS.**

F. ADDITIONAL CONCERNS: John Wilson expressed an interest in the Catholic Workers Oscar Romero House. Should St. Cecilia have a more active role in it? John will pursue this. The committee would like to have a speaker from the group come to one of our meetings.
Extensive statistics from Good Neighbor are in Google Drive.

G. SOCIAL JUSTICE VISIONING - Jarrett Wendt. Postponed

H. CLOSING PRAYER - Deacon Ron. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer for breast cancer patients and survivors.

*Final documents will be prepared and deposited in SJ Google Drive.