

BOARD OF OUTREACH

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
x		Peter Eichten (2020), <i>Chair</i>	x		Sue Moses (2020)
x		Sally Cassellius (2019)	x		Paula Northwood, <i>Staff Liaison</i>
	x	Birdie Cunningham (2019)	x		Jared Swanson (2019)
x		Mary Jordan (2021)	x		Peter Vitale (2020)
	x	Kim Lutes (2021)		x	Gingie Ward (2018)

GUESTS: E.J. Kelley from the Groveland Food Shelf attended the meeting to provide more details regarding the community members who have been camping out on the church lawn.

Actions Taken:

Peter E. welcomed everyone and led a meditation, reading from the closing prayer from Tears We Cannot Stop.

Agenda Items

E.J. KELLEY-Most users of the food shelf feel like housing is their most urgent challenge. He described them as largely belonging to two groups, one that is often “drunk and potentially violent,” while the other group is made of up of individuals experiencing more long term homelessness who also deal with illness and addiction. One feels more sympathetic, but both deserve dignity and support. Some have been sheltering at Plymouth because they feel more comfortable there than the traditional shelters; Harbor Lights, etc. They are a part of our community and usually have some sort of housing history that makes it difficult to obtain housing; evictions, criminal records, etc. He mentioned the Minnesota Freedom Fund (social entrepreneurs) who will meet people at the courthouse to bail them out with a promise to repay. E.J. has been thinking about that model with regards to people who have had evictions; security deposits, first and last month rent, etc. Wanted to approach the Board of Outreach to see if there was some way to set up a similar program. Many people are being shut out of services due to past histories or lack of sobriety. PETER E. mentioned that the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness (DCEH) has a pool of money specifically for rental assistance, but there are qualifications in order to receive those funds.

PAULA related how Plymouth is spending a significant amount of money already to hire security to move people off of the property. She suggested scheduling a discussion session on the topic at the 10:00am Sunday hour to get the conversation started among the congregation.

zAmya THEATER

PAULA-Would we consider partnering with them to provide office space, rehearsal space and performance space. They are losing their space at St Stephen’s Human Services and are looking for a new home. Our support would be providing office space, rehearsal space, and performance space. We will invite Maren Ward, the director of the zAmya Theare Project, to come to our November meeting to talk about how this relationship could work.

LYDIA HOUSING REQUEST

They’ve had a shortfall due to cuts from other sources and are asking for an increase in support from \$600 to \$1000. The request was approved, and the money will come from the Sandbo Fund.

CARING FOR CREATION REQUEST

MARY-Jan Neville from Caring for Creation is requesting \$137 to provide food for a reception on November 25th for nature photographer, Craig Blalock. The board approved the request.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE

No updates at this time.

FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD

They are still searching for individuals to help take over the second week of the program. We can't schedule the second session until we have someone committed. FMF requires organizations to commit to two sessions per year in order to participate. PAULA feels the staff is already stretched beyond capacity and cannot pick up this responsibility in addition to their others. The board agreed with Paula that if no volunteers can be identified to head up the second week, then Plymouth should take a break from participation.

COMMUNITY FUND

PETER E. is organizing a single meeting with members of each board to discuss how to present the revised Community Fund procedures to the congregation.

OTHER ITEMS

PETER E. suggested the board consider an overnight retreat. The board agreed this was a good idea. He also announced details for the Phillips Neighborhood clean sweep on October 13th.

SALLY-Beacon Interfaith Housing is having a fundraising lunch on Tuesday, October 30th at the Convention Center at Noon. Sally has signed up for a table of 10.

Next Meeting

November 14, 2018

6:30-8:00pm , Room 203

*Respectfully submitted,
Peter Vitale, secretary*
