

EASTER GROUP MEETING MINUTES

November 24, 2014

1. ROLL CALL, CALL TO ORDER

Present: Dorrie Farrell, Kristy Miller, Dave Nuetzel, Pastor Sandra Rudd, Jack and Judy Ozment, Ted Laufenberg, and Mary Wegner

2. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA, APPROVAL OF AGENDA - None

3. PUBLIC, GUESTS INTRODUCTIONS - None

4. REPORTS

A. **PRESIDENT** – Dorrie shared the final budget for the Homeless Summit. She also posed a question wondering what we want to do with Easter Group – is the organization still relevant/needed? This be the focus of the Annual Meeting, at which point Dorrie stated she will step down as President. Dorrie reported that the Homeless Summit Steering Committee felt strongly that Project Homeless Connect should still happen this year; however, what they really want to happen is to offer vouchers for clothing and services (e.g., haircut).

Jack moved and Dave seconded to use the remaining FIT grant funds to cover the costs of the Homeless Summit. Motion passed.

B. **VICE PRESIDENT** - Not at this time

C. **SECRETARY** – Mary reported that our registration with 211 has been finalized, which is a requirement for grants associated with Alaska Housing (e.g., ESG).

D. **TREASURER** – Current balance is \$10,996.92 plus we have a \$200 donation pending.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. **Discussion of Homeless Summit:** Mary Therese did a wonderful job of facilitating the Homeless Summit. The timing was better this year, and the event worked. A high number of clergy we present. It was noted that the private industry was missing, which is a missing element when it comes to employment issues. Large turnout and engagement throughout the event was noted.

B. **Reports from Dave, Kristy, and Dorrie regarding the new Steering Committee(s):** A Steering Committee that consists of various service providers came out of the Homeless Summit. The Steering Committee is working on creating a list of service providers, which is going through an iterative process to get it down to a manageable amount of information. There is a Steering Committee and also a smaller Steering Committee for the larger Steering Committee. Dave, Dorrie, Evadne, and Kristy are involved in the various Steering Committees at some level.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion regarding Project Homeless Connect (PHC):** Do we have the capacity to put on a PHC this year? An idea was put forth to not hold a PHC event this year and instead give vouchers to the Salvation Army and possibly churches who feed the homeless. This would allow us to focus on rejuvenating our group and incorporate the Steering Committee into our work by deepening on the Millennium Goals later in the spring. A question was raised regarding medical needs, and how to provide information to individuals about where to go for medical services. We also discussed the need to share information about where free food is available in Sitka.

Ted will work with Judy to see if there can be medical coupons that we give to those in need. Dave and Ted will work with the Salvation Army to see if there could be a few Fridays (maybe in February) where we offer a Voucher Table during the Salvation Army lunch. Information about the free food and medical coupons will be shared with the churches who offer free meals to those in need, and we will also encourage these churches to have a regular supply of hygiene supplies and new socks.

To Do List:

- Medical Coupons – Ted and Judy
- Junk Trunk Vouchers – Jack and Judy
- List of places to get food – Dave and Mary
- Contact Salvation Army about Voucher Table – Dave and Ted
- Haircut and White Elephant Vouchers - Dorrie
- Revise PHC Budget and Cancel Harrigan Reservation - Dorrie
- Publicity – Dorrie has contact
- Salvation Army Vouchers and Voucher Accounting Sheets - Mary
- Work with Food Churches to Share Meals and Medial Info/Stock Hygiene and Socks – Kristy

- B. Possible Homeless Shelter:** Dorrie and Ted looked into the Sitka Hotel as a possible homeless shelter. The building is in need of repair and is going for \$1.5 million with about \$300,000 needed to get it up to functionality. The thought was to pool non-profits together to purchase, or look into a private purchase, such as Allen Marine who is looking for a place for their summer tourists, which would leave it as a possible homeless shelter during the non-summer season. Cascade Inn might also be an option to look into although Chief Schmidt liked the downtown location of the Sitka Hotel. Ted will contact Allen Marine to see what might be possible.

- C. LONG RANGE POLICY STATEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE FUND RAISING & FUND DISBURSEMENT:** Dorrie again brought up the need for policy and focus in this area. Dorrie mentioned her willingness to be the Easter Group's bookkeeper and do our taxes at no cost except a valuation of her hours as a tax-deductible contribution to the Easter Group.

- 7. ADJOURNMENT:** Dave moved and Mary seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:12 pm. We will look at schedules and set our next meeting date for January 2015.