

Easter Group – *Rebirth of Hope*

EIN 80-0647738

Annual Meeting

Methodist Church Saturday February 5th 2011

After a worship service in the church, the meeting commenced at 9:40

Present are Mim McConnell, Dorrie Farrell, Steve Fish, Kari Johnson, Captain Tina Bottjen from Salvation Army, Pastor Luther Oconer from the Methodist church, Jack and Judy Ozment, and Julia Smith.

M/S Dorrie/Judy to accept the agenda without additions or changes. Carried

M/S Jack/Steve to accept the minutes of the last meeting. Carried

Pastor Luther Oconer and Captain Tina Bottjen are not regular attendees and are very welcome.

Treasurer Jack reports that there is \$4754.05 in the checking account. Has received quite a few small checks and some larger donations as well.

Unfinished Business:

a)BMS Breakfast program: Ted delivered more bars; they already had about 3 months supply. Some of the kids had taken on washing and putting apples out. They have 2 cases of apples and 1 case lasts 2 ½ weeks. A case of fuji apples costs \$72. Dorrie: there is a need for food @ PHS and students there are also learning to cook(!). Phil Burdick has requested some food assistance. Judy will meet with Phil and report back. M/S Judy/Julia to support BMS apples with \$300 for enough apples to last until the end of the school year. Carried with one no vote.

b) Backpack grocery. Judy gave report, nothing started yet? Some discussion on type of bags to use. Judy brought article “5 myths about school food”. Outdated food has been picked up by Salvation Army from Seamart on T,Th, Sat and Sun. Ted picks up dairy too. Now all food must be scanned before donating which is harder on employees to get the time. Fortress of the Bear is eager for food handouts which are still good for human consumption. A.C. Lakeside slowly getting involved in donating outdated food.

Jeannine Brooks @ Baranof and Dianna Twaddle @ Keet are contacts for getting food to kids in need. Salvation Army has lots of food, and could possibly help supply food for kids to take home in backpack for weekends. Judy and Kari will check at Keet on providing bags of food for weekends. Include note in bag to explain where the food came from and its purpose, being sensitive to kids and adults sensitivity to their own

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need, lack of means, money, etc.

c) Application for 501 (c) (3): Discussed pros and cons of incorporation. Benefits include liability protection for board members (and volunteers ?). Would we be better served operating under the 501 c3 of a church or another organization? Churches have liability insurance for boards and church members. Possible 501c3 partners might be SCAPS or Jericho Road. Some discussion of competition from more and more non-profits for dwindling grant and donation resources, but we are different from any other non-profits here in Sitka, and fill a niche which would have its support.

Mim talked to Phyllis Hackett and Gina who is a Jesuit volunteer @ SAIL and they were very supportive of EG mission and functions. Tina can help 3 months/year limit.

Continued discussion later in meeting: Dorrie talked to Health and Human Services for info on advantages/disadvantages on incorporation, will know more next week. Also need to check with St. Peter's on whether we have an option of working under their 501 C3 umbrella. With our own corp., we would have more autonomy to operate, be more efficient, maybe more grants available for our specific niche. Does allying ourselves with a church limit us for certain grants and fundraising?

M/S Julia/Judy to file for 501 (c)(3) status as a corporation with Mim as Pres.; Jack as Secretary/Treasurer; Dorrie as VP. Carried

M/S Steve/Jack to give Mim latitude to edit bylaws on board of directors for filing application.

d) Report on homeless advocacy. Dorrie says we are different because “we care”. She talked to Duke Dunsing and Kelly McClennahan.

Need someone who can communicate with Cynthia with a stipend paid by Adult Protective Services for “protective payee” position who would pay bills for Cynthia. Dorrie spoke with Mike LaGuire last night and Cynthia is behind in rent. She's paid through January, utilities paid through Dec. If Kelly McC. will accept PP position, would work with Tanya Muldoon of Home Protective Services in Juneau and would give Cynthia continuous presence and access to Cynthia's records.

e) Jumo report. We have a very simple Jumo web page: from one of the creators of facebook, ties in with facebook as a social network providing exposure and access to non-profits for those interested or in need of info. Non-profit registry and forum. Steve is managing the website.

f) Judy O. spoke to Martina Kurzer: “Honoring Women” fundraiser has been very successful but nobody has an honoring men event. Event at Centennial Hall takes 1 year advance booking. Ideas: invite non-profit groups to nominate candidates for recognition; “Superman Saturday”; “in Sitka a good man is easy to find”; Mim will

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talk to USCG, ANB for ideas, churches, other volunteer organization, sponsors could pay support, nominations from groups would not cost \$. Judy and Mim Check on dates for next fall.

g) Expansion of definition of “shelter”. In order to qualify for help from BIHA or AHFC a person needs to be on the street or in a “shelter” which is narrowly defined as an official shelter, i.e. Aurora’s Watch, SAFV, or Jericho Road. This definition and regulations are limiting the ability of people in need of shelter to access assistance from the State of Alaska. More flexibility in the shelter definition is needed. Private, individual shelters are needed by some people who do not fit into group shelter setups for various reasons. Melville charitable trust addresses homelessness. Police Chief Sheldon Schmidt would know of homeless people. Tina: 5 people now who are living out and coming in to SA for soup and food. When shelter is available, homeless people from other towns will come to take advantage. Dorrie: need to enable people to take a tax deduction for their donation. Would we apply for a city grant for our work? Now there is a formal application, and awards are based on a matrix score.

M/S Steve/ Dorrie to get application and work on it through St. Peter’s’ 501 C3. Carried Ted Laufenberg joined us here

New Business:

a) It’s time for another homeless summit. How can all different agencies and organizations work together to meet the needs of homelessness in Sitka? Do regular/annual meetings? Have personnel changeover – make homelessness more visible to folks here. Last summit was Oct 29 2009. Tina: works closely with BIHA and AHFC. Ted and Tina will lead on summit plans based on last pattern. 4 panels in Maksoutoff room

M/S Dorrie/Jack move to initiate homelessness coordination summit next fall. Carried Ted: United Way has a good pattern of networking/coordinating efforts for food and shelter. UW also may fund other groups to set-up similar effort.

Red Cross not responsive so far. Red Cross requires a “natural disaster” to give aid. Talk to BIHA (Heather Powell) for housing voucher. Need for homeless facilities in Sitka. People come in from different corners and some are harder to deal with, some wait until they are on the street to seek help. We could support a “clearing house” concept: 1st call for people needing shelter. Police has Salvation Army phone number but SA cannot help drunk people. Drunk and otherwise difficult people could jeopardize use of many available shelter options. Many homeless people have alcohol problems. Need providers, sympathetic people for late at night calls for help. Tina: United Way has issues with religious organizations. Ted proposes having an office, perhaps on Fine Arts

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Camp campus with phone # for clearing house. Several local organizations that could help and serve same needs are in need of office space. Office would be grant funded and cell phone based for contact. Fraser Hall will have offices.

Need advocate to work on issues with legislature, etc. defining “shelter” (AHFC). Ask Marie Murray if someone at LIO is watching these issues. SB3 hearing at LIO. Ted will work on clearing house idea and definition of shelter for AHFC.

Thank You here for Judy for the delicious and sustaining soup and Dorrie for the great and gracious muffins

b) Review Mission Statement: Mim: need to add “extreme” between “end” and “poverty” and remove “and global”.

Our efforts are to relieve the suffering of extreme poverty.

Our efforts DO give hope to people and also to other those agencies and individuals working to help those in need.

A small group with limited resources needs to focus on what we can do, projects which can be accomplished where we can make a difference.

M/S Jack/Julia to approve new mission statement wording: New wording is in italics, removed wording is in [brackets].

“The Easter Group is an ecumenical community of faith whose mission is to *strive to end extreme poverty and empower people, and bring about a rebirth of hope. In support of the Millennium Development Goals, we commit to identifying and implementing local [and global] projects that serve those in need. Our actions are for the benefits of all regardless of personal faith, culture, or beliefs*”.

2010 Goals:

1) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger:

1 homeless survey a) SA does the homeless survey, from the State (AHFC?) 2X/year.

We don't need to do it.

b) addictions lead to chronic need; where are the holes in the “systems”?

c) ideas moved to 2011 goals

2a) done

b) done

Goals 2,3 and 4 from MDG's scratched from our “worklist”

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Goals for 2011:

Issue 1) Homelessness:

- a) hold homeless summit next fall
- b) help the unserved
- c) Develop universal confidentiality statement for all agencies and providers
- d) establish Easter Group as clearing house for homelessness

Issue 2) Hunger and Nutrition:

- a) school feeding breakfast and lunch expand to PHS
- b) Weekend meal program (Judy and Kari check in at Keet)
- c) Cooking classes in schools (Judy)
- d) Clinton foundation supports fish in schools program.
check clintonfoundation.org and healthiergeneration.org