

EASTER GROUP MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 2, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 by President Mim McConnell. Present were Carolyn Lemmon of SCPS, Nancy Jo Bleier, Maggie Gallin of YAS, Phyllis Hackett of SAIL, Jill Johnson of EG, Jack Ozment of EG, Don Jones, Evadne Wright of EG, Dorrie Farrell of EG, and Carole Knuth, Homeless Clinic at SEARHC, and Kathryn Snelling of EG.

Changes to Agenda

McConnell added Dec. 21 Remembrance Event and a presentation by Grace Brooks on a book event to benefit Easter Group.

M/S Ozment/Farrell to approve minutes of October 12. Motion passed.

President's Report

McConnell reported on two conferences attended in October. She summarized a presentation by Linda Kaufman at the Anchorage Coalition of Housing and Homelessness in Anchorage and stressed the value of the Vulnerability Index (see www.100Khomes.org) in assessing homeless needs. She related that Nancy Burke of Alaska Mental Health advised working with the local Emergency Planning community.

The second conference in Seattle was the National Community Land Trust Conference, which she attended as Executive Director of the Sitka Community Development Commission. She had an opportunity after that conference to attend a one-day grant writing workshop which she described as very valuable.

She noted the Homeless Summit was cancelled due to a conflict with SCPS Resource Training and she will attend that conference on Nov. 17. She noted that Desiree Hellegers will be in Sitka Nov. 16 for an evening reading at Kettleton Library, a fund raiser for PHC. McConnell will accompany Hellegers to interviews at both radio stations to discuss the author's book No Room of Her Own and homelessness.

She advised she submitted a grant for the D 2 grant in the amount of \$1,000.

Grace Brooks

Brooks summarized plans for author Hellegers' Sitka visit beginning with the library reading event which will benefit Easter Group for the PHC. She will arrange an interview with the Sentinel and do a flyer to be posted (Maggie Gallin will do posting of flyers) around town. McConnell will do press releases, asked for volunteers to provide cookies and punch and stressed the event as raising the awareness of homelessness in Sitka in advance of the January PHC.

Carolyn Lemmon noted that the SCPS Resource Training will not cover the homeless topic but will do in depth on substance abuse and mental health, often present in the homeless.

Treasurer's Report

Jack Ozment reported a cash balance of \$2957.10

Nancy Jo Bleier, Mental and Behavioral Health

Bleier informed she is posting info to the spreadsheet online on a regular basis, adding details about services arranged. She mentioned health screening, immunizations, nutrition as services offered. She identified committee as Penny Lehman, Kathy Ingallenara, Leslie Underwood, Melanie Boord, Laurie Hood, and Maggie Gallin.

Dorrie Farrell, Donations

Evadne proposed that the meal consist of soup in a Styrofoam container and a roll. Attendees can also take a container to go. In answer to a question about cost, she said it would be within planned spending for Salvation Army. A suggestion of food for volunteers would require catering; the suggestion was not approved.

Jill Johnson explained the personal care items she is soliciting. She suggested sacks to place the items in would be helpful. Farrell said Carolyn McKee would request fabric shopping bags from AC/LS for that purpose.

Farrell presented info on the donations committee work on posted tear sheets showing the 8 manufacturers identified as possible donors of outdoor clothing and gear (out of an initial search list of 25-30) ,10 local retailers approached for either donations of clothing or items at significant discounts. 17 local corporations, 5 banks, 3 insurers, 4 realtors, 7 service/social clubs and 11-15 churches will be asked for cash donations. Sawmill Cove Industrial Park director Garry White has been approached about using storage space in the administration building at Sawmill Cove and will bring the request to the board and to the City. Sitka Sound and Silver Bay will donate new or slightly used rubber boots.

There was considerable discussion about the SWAGS (combo back pack, sleeping bag and tent) from an Australian manufacturer at a cost of \$69./unit plus shipping charges. Farrell advised that Lynden International, a freight forwarder, informed this morning that fabric content and flame retardant labeling had to meet Consumer Protection legislation standards to pass US customs inspection. Contact has been made this afternoon by email to SWAGS to verify. FOB Sitka cost calculated both at water rate and air rate; consensus leaning toward air shipping after confirming consumer protection issues are legal.

Farrell had run some approximate figures on possible cash donations (\$3,000) and costs: 32 SWAGS units \$4,000. Including air freight, WalMart Anchorage, 30 poly fleece twin blankets \$585. Including shipping, and Centennial Hall rent \$285. for known costs of \$4,870. ***Note; there will be additional costs for items, either local or from manufacturers, which are discounted but not donated and for shipping costs from manufacturers to Sitka. Those additional costs cannot be calculated at this time.***

McConnell advised that donations and discount solicitations must be on SCPS letterhead as they are serving as the pass-through for tax deductible purposes. Checks should be made to SCPS with Easter Group noted in the "memo" space.

Next meeting set for Nov. 18, site to be determined. Adjournment at 1:30 PM.