

rebirth of hope
Easter Group

Minutes

Monday, April 15, 2013, 5:30pm

Sitka School District's District Office Board Room

300 Kostrometinoff St - on the back end of Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Present: Mim McConnell, Dorrie Farrell, Dave Nuetzel, Jack Ozment, Judy Ozment, Julia Smith, Evadne Wright, and Mary Wegner

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jack moved and Dorrie seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Passed.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Julia moved and Dave seconded to approve the 11/26/12 minutes as presented. Motion Passed.

4. GUESTS & PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR – None

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Mim reported that she wrote a letter of support for SEARHC's Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant, and got a letter of thanks from Unitarians for the community event that we helped to sponsor where 250 bowls of chowder were served. Mim also reported that the Faith into Tomorrow (FIT) grant just came out for the Episcopal Diocese and is due October 15th, and that the White Elephant approved Kathy O'Gara's Blessing in a Backpack grant in the amount of \$2,000.

6. VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Dorrie reported that she was not able to submit the CIT grant of \$50,000 due to technical difficulties, and that she is still looking for a grant that could help us contract with someone to do outreach with the Melville Charitable Trust as a possible option.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT- Jack reported that the Guardian Angels Society, an anonymous group of Sitkans, gave the Easter Group a check for \$2,100. We currently have \$16,287.26 in our checking account. Jack also reported that he would move our money to a different type of checking account that does not have a \$3/mo maintenance fee. The move will not cause any change to our account numbers. Bills were recently submitted to Jack related to the PHC event in January.

8. PROJECT REPORTS

- a. **Project Homeless Connect (PHC):** We debriefed the PHC event that was held in January. It was noted that in the future Rain Country offers a credit for donated items, so we might be able to advertise a donation event to raise credits to give away at the next PHC event. Evadne reported that people are following up with housing needs, and that one couple received their Section 8 allocation. Dave reported that there are some changes to the Section 8 process that can help people find employment and not lose their housing benefits with the changes to begin next year; the new changes are related to a five year limit that excepts the disabled and elderly.

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- b. **Homeless Summit:** We discussed the fact that it is important to host a Homeless Summit annually due to position changes at the various non-profit organizations. We also discussed the idea to collect five data points from each organization ahead of time so everyone has a common point of reference. The Clearinghouse document on our website needs some work this year.
- c. **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG):** Evadne reported that we should hear April/May about successful proposals.
- d. **Blessings in a Backpack:** There was a request to hear a summary report from the Backpack program that perhaps included information from the teachers and included attendance reports, and a desire to better understand how the parent organization for Blessings looks at success.
- e. **Pacific High School (PHS) Breakfast Program:** Judy reported that the Episcopal Church Women received a request from PHS asking for support with their breakfast program. We discussed the possibility of the Easter Group supporting the PHS breakfast program.

Jack moved and Mary seconded to give PHS \$500 to support their breakfast program. Motion Passed.

9. NEW PROJECTS and TASKS

- a. **Bylaws:** We discussed our Bylaws and how we can make involvement on the Board more solidified. Dave, Judy, Julia, and Evadne were appointed to the Executive Committee.
- b. **Officer Elections:** The President and Vice President were appointed to a two-year term last year; no election is needed this year. The Treasurer and Secretary follow the President's appointment.
- c. **Set Goals for 2013:** We examined our Mission statement and agreed it still is relevant for us. We discussed and updated our Goals.

Julia moved and Jack seconded to accept the Goals as discussed. Motion Passed.

We discussed and agreed to focus on having the Easter Group look into housing vouchers instead of having a contracted outreach person while we wait to get a shelter started. Salvation Army and SAIL will share proposals about what might be needed.

10. ADDITIONAL EASTER GROUP BUSINESS and COMMENTS/REPORTS

- a. **Jericho Road House:** It is still unknown what is happening with the Sitka Counseling "A" Street house, which is also known as the Jericho Road house.
- b. **Poverty Book Study:** A four-week book study of *Poverty* will begin on Wednesday, April 17th @ 5:30 pm at the Methodist Church. Food is provided.

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11. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS:

Friday, May 17th @ 4:30 pm at DO Board Room

12. ADJOURNMENT

Jack moved and Dorrie seconded to adjourn. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.