

Easter Group – *Rebirth of Hope*

EIN: 80-0647738

Minutes for Friday, August 22, 2014 Meeting

1. ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Present: Dorrie Farrell, Judy and Jack Ozment, Dave Nuetzel, and Mary Wegner

Guests: Father Dave Elsensohn, Kathy O’Gara, Kristy Miller, and Gayle Young

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Judy moved and Mary seconded to approve the Agenda with the Blessings in a Backpack added to New Business. Motion passed.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 9 MEETING

Judy moved and Dave seconded to approve the May 9th Minutes. Motion passed.

4. GUESTS AND PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Dorrie introduced Father Dave. Father Dave shared that the original Easter Group evolved out of a Lenten study group that discussed the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals. The Easter Group was formed when the study group ended and people were called to action to be part of social justice work in Sitka. The intent behind the Lenten study group was to develop a lay ministry group that was truly ecumenical in nature. Father Dave shared that at the heart, Easter Group was formed to be a Christian social outreach lay ministry group. Discussion points were as follows:

- Father Dave asked about what the Easter Group has been doing since he was originally involved in the organization, which we shared with him
- We then reviewed the eight Millennium Development Goals, and discussed where we want to go in the future
- Father Dave’s comments focused on encouraging us to **broaden our focus in the sense of creating an umbrella that has room for more people to focus on more of the Millennium Development goals**, which will also help address the way that the various goals interact
- Father Dave encouraged us to **enlist the religious leaders in Sitka**, as our work helps to make their job easier when it comes to meeting the social welfare needs of their members
- Another idea was to have the **religious organizations have an official representation on the Easter Group Board**
- Perhaps we could have an **ongoing strand in our meetings where we continue to evolve our individual and collective understanding of social justice issues**
- There was a discussion about **bringing a more active voice of faith to our meetings**, which included going back to holding our meetings in various churches
- Father Dave suggested that we **outreach to local churches to do tangible things to support efforts happening around town** (e.g., meal programs to feed the homeless)
- Judy suggest that we **have another book study perhaps around Advent**

5. REPORTS

- President's report – Dorrie shared the following:
 - *United Way in Alaska* newspaper – we have the option to join this organization if interested
 - *Capital City Weekly* issue that is focused on homelessness
 - A donation of \$50 from a Sitkan
 - *Feeding America* key findings
 - Treasurer binder that has our financial records for the past 4 years
 - Easter Group checking account records, which Dorrie has verified
 - Dorrie asked for a reimbursement of \$295.50, which she paid for a homeless man named Lowry who needed an airplane ticket to go to a job out of town; however, the individual never town and thus the ticket purchased is worthless - ***Mary moved and Dave seconded to reimburse Dorrie for \$295.50. Motion passed. The funds will come from the FIT Grant.***
 - Morrow family – Dorrie shared an update about the Morrow family supported in the past.
 - FIT Grant – Dorrie will contact Ted about the October report that is coming due. ***Judy moved and Dave seconded that we contact the local ministers to let them know that any monies left in our FIT grant are available to help support individuals they know of who are in need of transportation to get to a job in another community. Motion passed.***
 - Homeless Summit and PHC – Dorrie requested that someone step up and consider chairing these two events:
 - Homeless Summit: set format for session, identify & contact panel participants, reserve facility, manage publicity, and maintain budget
 - Project Homeless Connect: contact providers, reserve facility, plan building usage layout, arrange publicity, fundraising and vouchers, and maintain budget
 - IRS 501(c)(3) Status – Without our non-profit status, we cannot solicit funds as a non-profit or go for grants; however, we can accept funds if people want to donate to us
- Vice President's report – Not at this time
- Secretary's report – Not at this time
- Treasurer's report – Dorrie shared the following notes:
 - Current balance (\$13,307.87) includes FIT grant funds (\$2,100)
 - Recent donations of \$1,000 and \$50 and canceled check (\$25.00) from 2012, and an un-cleared check for \$12.00 from April, 2014
 - Cash disbursed during interim – recipients, amounts, eligibility for FIT funds?

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

IRS status update – see President's Report
Update on banking – see President's Report

7. NEW BUSINESS

- Blessing in a Backpack donation – Kathy shared that they are getting ready to start the 3rd year of Blessings in a Backpack. Kathy is hoping to serve 56 students at \$100/student/year.

Judy moved and Jack seconded to donate \$3,000 to Blessings in a Backpack. Motion passed.

8. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS: Friday, September 12th @ 11:30 am.

Judy will check to see if St. Peter's is available. Let Dorrie know about any agenda items.

9. ADJOURNMENT: Father Dave closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting at 1:20 pm.