

Meeting minutes for the Nassau Community Resource Committee 18 September 2019 at Grace United Methodist Church

In attendance were Michael Needham, John Imhoff, Carrie Bertrand, Reverend Dion Marquit, Dana Salazar, Lori Clark, Beverly Warner, Carol Siver, Barbara Sears, and Sheila Foraker.

Rev. Marquit opened meeting with prayer.

Discussed election of officers. Michael Needham was nominated and unanimously elected as President. Lori Clarke was nominated and elected unanimously as treasurer, and John Imhoff was unanimously elected secretary.

Open the discussion about a community center in the area a place where people can congregate; senior citizens for coffee, a place for W. I. C. Intake, a place where computers might be available for public use, phone access, a place for youth and community activities and programs.

Discussed the fact that there are grants that may be available for assistance with support for a community center. Hillary Monsanto from _____ school district may be researching grants and helping us with funding options.

Briefly discussed several options as far as buildings in the community that might be options for a community center including: the former Stuart's location, The Trolley Line Diner, Bailey's, and the red house adjacent to the Community Garden.

Discussion turned to the Grace United Methodist Church "Sunday School House". This building next-door to the Grace United Methodist Church, is underutilized, but is in a perfect location for a center to provide services for the community.

We took a brief tour of the Sunday school house, discussed the fact that Pastor Marquit's office was at that location, and that the house is currently used by the train club, but the layout and spaces are well-suited for a community center.

Reverend Marquit indicated that because the house is owned by the Grace United Methodist Church, the use of the Sunday school house would have to be in accordance with the Methodist churches mission, and then it would be likely that anyone serving the community as a volunteer would have to undergo background checks to ensure safety of the patrons.

Dana Salazar motioned to have Mike Needham approach the trustees with the idea of leasing the space for the purposes of a community center. Seconded by others. Unanimously agreed to.

Mike agreed to prepare a concept to be presented to the board of trustees for the Grace United Methodist Church consideration. Once a decision is made by them as to whether a concept is workable, next steps could be taken.

Mike Needham raised the idea of a Christmas party possibly in conjunction with the veterans association at Chandler Young. Reverend Marquit suggested and it was agreed that it would be a holiday party that would be open to the community and would include Santa Claus and other festivities. Sunday December 15. This would be a kid focused and family oriented event and Mike suggested that the items collected for auction at the last fundraiser could be auctioned off at the event as a an additional fundraiser for the committee.

Meeting closed with prayer - Sheila Foraker