

Nassau Resource Committee

Minutes

Wednesday January 13th, 2021 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

Committee Goals:

- To complete the resource document to assist local services in identifying the appropriate resource for persons in need
- To provide support for the Nassau Resource Center and Gathering Place
- To evaluate the potential for a drop-in/community center
- To use the committee's influence to educate and promote the need for services for the needy in the community and for its leaders

Attendees: Chaplain Michael Needham, President; John Imhoff, Secretary; Jean Wagner, Nassau resident; Shaykha Sheila DS Foraker, AQRT Sufi Order; Diana Murphy, Nassau Resource Center; Pastor Dion Marquit, Grace United Methodist Church; Carol Siver, Grace United Methodist Church; Joseph Gil, Nassau resident.

Meeting Minutes:

Opening prayer led by Pastor Marquit.

The meeting opened with members introducing themselves for the benefit of our newest member, Mr. Joseph Gill. Mr. Gill introduced himself, indicated that his interests include grant writing, IT and web design, and graphic design and he looks forward to being involved in the committee. Welcome to the committee Joe!

Chaplain Needham announced that the unsold calendars from the fall 2020 fund raising event were distributed to local resident's mailboxes by Lori Clark, John Imhoff and himself. A cover letter was included with a self addressed envelope for donations if recipients wanted to contribute to the Committee. Several generous donations have been received. Look for a financial update next month.

Chaplain Needham indicated that the Community Connections website had received over 24 thousand visits and that the Facebook page has also been visited frequently.

Diana Murphy gave a brief update on how the Nassau resource center has been doing lately. She indicated that it has been an amazing holiday season. The generous people of Nassau have donated money and gifts and made a holiday season truly amazing. She also indicated that earlier in the day she had heard from the Town Supervisor that a \$9,900 donation had been made to the Food Bank's account; an amount suitable to feed all of the families supported by the Resource Center for two years.

Chaplain Needham discussed the future community center, indicating that the outstanding work includes the removal of a doorway that does not meet code requirements, the installation of exit signs, and the installation of an access ramp, are still in the plans but will begin when the COVID is better controlled. Because of current construction and material costs, the ramp will likely be pre-fabricated metal, rather than wood construction.

Chaplain Needham discussed his intent for seeking out grants that might be available to help with funding for the community center and for some of the other Committee objectives. Currently he is interested in looking into available grants through local businesses such as Amazon and Regeneron.

One of the Committee's goals is to complete the Resource Guide and make it available so that people know who to call when there is a need in the community. The Guide is distributed to police departments, local stores, libraries and the village and town halls so it is available to those who need it. The committee agreed that the Resource Guide needs to be updated in appearance and to make it more personal by adding names and phone numbers of people to call for specific situations. Mr. Gill agreed to take on the task of updating the document. Members who wish to be listed on the guide should reach out to Chaplain Needham.

Chaplain Needham indicated that the committee currently has no bylaws. As such he will approach one of the committee members about drafting a document for the committee to review.

A discussion followed regarding long term objectives or projects that the committee wanted to start working toward. Some of the topics discussed included:

- Chaplain Needham indicated his interest in working toward developing affordable housing in the Nassau area.
- Carol Siver indicated that money is available through the Sunshine Fund. One of the initiatives the Fund will soon offer is the opportunity to reduce the amount of the loan payment by volunteering for local non-profit organizations like the Resource Center or day care center. The committee agreed that information about the Sunshine Fund be included on the Resource Guide.
- Pastor Marquit raised the idea of the community center being a possible pick up/drop off point for public transportation. Agreement among the committee that we need improved transportation in the area to allow residents access to college, groceries and general needs not available through STAR CDTA or other transportation programs.

The meeting was closed with a prayer led by Shaykha Foraker.

Next Meeting TBD.