

Nassau Community Connections, Inc.

Minutes

Tuesday April 13th, 2021, 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

Attendees:

Chaplain Michael Needham, President; Lori Clark, Treasurer; John Imhoff, Secretary; Shaykha Sheila DS Foraker, AQRT Sufi Order; Joseph Gil; Nassau Resident and webmaster; Diana Murphy, Nassau Resource Center; Pastor Dion Marquit, Grace United Methodist Church; Carol Siver, Grace United Methodist Church; Reverend Ed VanKampen, Nassau Reformed Church.

MEETING MINUTES

Opening reflection led by Reverend VanKampen .

Previous Month's Minutes

Approval of minutes from March Meeting; motion raised by Lori Clark, seconded by John Imhoff, and carried by unanimous decision.

General Announcements (Chaplain Needham)

- Need to work toward getting a target date for getting the community center opened.
- Grant sub-committee feels the need to have goals listed so they are available for grant applications
- Open the community center
- Improve availability of transportation
- Chicken BBQ; need to get date on calendar and start prepping for this event.

Assistance Provided (Chaplain Needham, Lori Clark)

Lori Clark is still working to assist the individual discussed in last month's meeting to find housing.

- This person is back in hotel/motel room.
- It is been very frustrating as they had an appointment to meet and show a potential apartment/room and they cancelled an hour before.
- Lori has written a very stern email to the property manager expressing how disappointed how non-responsiveness to client's inquiry.

Financial Report (Lori Clark)

- Financial Statements sent to everyone before the meeting.
- \$3,810 in the Committee's checking account.
- Need to check recent statement because we may have received a \$200 donation from Pat Sahr who had selected NCC as her birthday charity.

- With regard to taxes, Lori will be reaching out to Key Bank as additional information is needed to finalize.
- Chaplain Needham indicated that he had \$250 from a Stewart's donation obtained by Joseph Gil.
- Chaplain Needham also indicated that there is \$800 in the account that belongs to him for the purchase of the 2021 calendars.

Mission Statement Sub-Committee (John Imhoff)

Sub-committee came up with the following:

- "Our grassroots welcome cultivates community, inspires hope, and networks for equity by raising awareness and connecting essential resources"

Follow-up discussions let to alternate language:

- "Our organization builds community, inspires hope, and networks for equity by raising awareness and connecting essential resources"
- Group agreed that we would send survey monkey with a couple of versions out there for membership to vote upon as a democratic approach to selecting the statement.
- John Imhoff to send original and a version derived from tonight's conversations to Chaplain Needham to send out survey.

Grant Sub-Committee (Chaplain Needham)

- The committee included Chaplain Needham, Hilary Montesano, Pastor Dion, Jean Waggoner, and Joseph Gil .
- Met to discuss grants that might be available and then assigned to go out and find grants that we might be eligible for.
- Chaplain Needham – looked into a USDA rural communities grant but found to be non-eligible as the median income for the region is too high.
- Jean Waggoner found a possible grant but we did not meet all of the technical requirements such as lack of a financial audit within the last year, etc.
- Joe had looked into Amazon grant – Initial response was yes, then came back and indicated they couldn't help because of our religious affiliation. Chaplain Needham followed up with them indicating that while we have people from many faiths represented, we do not represent any one faith, and do not require faith for anything we do. We are "People Helping People". Amazon came back and responded "We're going to help you". We sent them a list of things that would be needed for the community center; flat screen TV, furniture, etc. They also indicated that they have volunteers who could donate time so we may have Amazon volunteers to help with the community center.
- Joseph Gil had a couple of other grant opportunities in the pipeline. Depending on what Amazon provides, will help dictate what we need from other organizations.
- AARP grant submitted yesterday directly tied to community center. They were more about assisting with material items rather than cash. This is a national grant and may take some time to hear back about.
- Hilary also has lots of resources and has other grants they are looking into.
- This is only the beginning....Just getting started.

Motion for Communications Officer (Chaplain Needham)

A motion nominating Joseph Gil as the Communications officer for NCC was raised by Chaplain, seconded by John Imhoff and unanimously agreed to by those present.

Communications Officer Report (Joseph Gil)

G Suite account has been set up.

- Free to non-profit organizations.
- Email accounts for officers have been set up and he will be setting up a group email.

For the website:

- Joe is requesting profile information and pictures for biographies.
- Mission Statement and eventual Vision Statement will also be added to page as they are completed.
- Most recent version of the resource guide will be uploaded as well if it is not there already.
- There is still work to do, but the bulk of changes have been made.
- Requests membership to send him photographs of previous NCC events. He would like to build a photo library that he can use for fliers, and the websites and social medial pages.
 - We have a story to tell and photos help make it real and personal.
 - Will help us with our website and with the grant application process.
- Working to get an interactive community calendar on the website:
 - Could be used by local community service organizations to advertize their events
 - Reduce scheduling conflicts between organizations' events
 - Getting the word out:
 - Suggested putting the word out on the "Nassau the 12123 Community" Facebook page, and
 - Having members get information out to local orgs who might be interested.
 - Lori Clark agreed to pull list of contacts together that we can divvy up.

Youth Committee Easter Food Drive (Chaplain Needham/Diana Murphy)

- Event held at the Town Hall before Easter with Heather Werner (Town Clerk) as the Easter Bunny.
- For the benefit of The Gathering Place and the Nassau Resource Center
- Some of the NCC members and officers were there as well for support.
- Community seemed to really enjoy the event. It was warm and kind and seemed to be very well received.
- The community was very generous with their donations of food, cleaning / hygiene supplies and cash and overall the event was a huge success.

Last Thoughts

Carol Siver let the committee know that Grace United Methodist Church was doing the Strawberry Festival this year as a take out only event. It is scheduled for the June 17th.

Next Meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2021.

Closing reflection led by Shykha Sheila Foraker.