

Nassau Community Connections, Inc.

Minutes

Tuesday May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

**Attendees:**

Chaplain Michael Needham, President; Lori Clark, Treasurer; Joseph Gil, Communications Officer; John Imhoff, Secretary; Shaykha Sheila DS Foraker, AQR T Sufi Order; Diana Murphy, Nassau Resource Center; Pastor Dion Marquit, Grace United Methodist Church; Carol Siver, Grace United Methodist Church; Reverend Ed Van Kampen, Nassau Reformed Church; Dana Salazar, Esq.; Jean Waggoner, Nassau resident.

**MEETING MINUTES**

Opening reflection led by Reverend Van Kampen.

**Previous Month's Minutes**

Approval of minutes from April meeting carried by unanimous vote. **Note:** The draft minutes were amended immediately before the meeting to reflect the correct spelling of Pat Sahr's last name, and to add details regarding Chaplain Needham's funds in the NCC checking account that he had lent to the committee for the 2021 calendar purchase.

**Mission Statement (Chaplain Needham)**

- Survey monkey survey sent to membership and second option was chosen 8 votes to 2.
- After the survey several good comments were received suggesting that we meld the two options.
- Chaplain Needham raised a motion for discussion on the topic.
- The group's discussion led to the following version:
  - *"Our grassroots organization builds community, inspires hope, and networks for equity by raising awareness and connecting essential resources"*
- Motion to adopt this as the NCC Mission Statement raised by Reverend Van Kampen,
- Seconded by Carol Siver.
- Motion carried by majority vote.

**Chicken BBQ Fundraiser (Chaplain Needham)**

- Last year we sold out and could have sold more.
- Need to decide on date and where the proceeds are going.
  - Proceeds – General agreement that we would like to retain a portion of the proceeds for Nassau Community Connections. We can fully designate the allocation of remaining funds to other organizations later, but we want to make clear that a portion of the proceeds will stay with NCC for operational costs and to benefit the opening of the community center.
  - The date – The officers proposed July 25<sup>th</sup>, however chaplain Needham and some other members indicated conflicts on that date.

- Carol Siver suggested alternate dates for options, and those present agreed on options of July 18 or August 1<sup>st</sup>, with the preference for July 18<sup>th</sup>. We'll need to start planning meeting soon so we can get tickets going, begin advertizing, planning grocery runs, etc. Chaplain Needham will check dates with the Veterans Association and send out emails to get a firm date on the calendar ASAP.

### **Village-wide Yard Sale on June 12<sup>th</sup> (Lori Clark)**

- Scheduled for Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup>
- Suggested that NCC might like to have members at tables located in front of the future Community Center selling items for the benefit of NCC.
- Chaplain Needham has many items left over from previous auction that he will donate. Other members indicated that they also have items or have friends/family members who have items to donate.
- Carol will take request to set up tables during the event to Church Board/Council this Sunday .
- Will need volunteers for June 12, and Lori will organize volunteers to help out with the sale.
  - Please reach out to Lori if you have some time on June 12 and can help with the event.
- Diana Murphy suggested that we could sell BBQ tickets at the event.

### **Community Center (Chaplain Needham)**

- The officers met and suggested a tentative opening date in late August.
- There are a few things we need to do to get the community center up and going.
  - Ramp - expensive, waiting on Amazon for funding, but intent is to get aluminum ramp for durability and relative ease of installation.
  - Fire/Life safety changes- equipment purchased, just need to get installed.
  - Interior painting, close in external door, Carol mentioned filing cabinets (not in the community center area) work can probably be done in a day to fulfill the permit requirements.
  - Would like to get open before cold weather hits.
  - We have some volunteers but will need more to meet the Church's requirement for minimum of two-person staffing.
- The committee agreed with the goal of late August to get the center open.

### **Officers Report**

#### **Joseph Gil – Communications Officer**

- Email accounts and Google Suite are up and running with centralized email accounts so people can contact us and we can respond.
- Calendar is on its own page – we can start populating start through suggestions
  - He can add the yard sale and BBQ when date is firm.
- His website changes are mostly complete, may just need some review.
- Joe has started a template for flier for Chicken BBQ, which he can finalize and make pretty as we get closer to the event.
- Nassau Library website has “support services”, would like to reach out to them and provide the guide or get them information about us.
  - John Imhoff will talk with Tracy at the Library to see about adding some info or the Directory to their webpage.

- Created a Mailchimp account (an email marketing platform for sending out newsletters).
  - Would like a collection of emails so we can advertize and get information about our events out there.

#### **John Imhoff – Secretary**

- Nothing specific to add, however if members have suggestions on what they would like to hear about, just let John know.

#### **Lori Clark – Treasurer**

- NYSERDA (Lori) issuing RFP for regional clean energy hubs a program geared linking small orgnizaions (like NCC) to larger partner organizations to provide services in their area. If there is someone (other than Lori) who can work to put out NCC’s interest out on the matchmaking clearinghouse website, it would be good. Chaplain Needham and Lori to discuss some of the opportunities and contacts he has through his company.

#### **Chaplain Needham – President**

- Chaplain Needham also indicated that Diana Murphy had included him in an email exchange with Bob Bernie who requested that NCC to come to the CEO regional meeting on June 10 at 9:30 to talk about what NCC is and our role in our community. Please reach out to Chaplain Needham if you are interested in participating.
- By-laws are drafted and ready for initial review. Dana Salazar Chaplain Needham will get together and review the draft before presenting to the group.

#### **Last Minute Thoughts**

Jean Waggoner asked about the calendar on the website, as to whether it will be a tool for the community to post/share events and how do we get the word out about it so people use it.

The calendar is set up for just that purpose. Intent is that NCC will monitor the postings with the understandings that the purpose is for community-based organizational events...not for personal things.

As far as getting the word out to the other organizations and letting them know about the calendar, word of mouth is good, as is social media such as Nassau the 12123 Community Facebook Page.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2021. Location TBD.

Closing reflection led by Shykha Sheila Foraker.