

Nassau Community Connections, Inc.

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday June 14th, 2022, 7:00 PM

Grace United Methodist Church House/Future Community Center

Our grassroots organization builds community, inspires hope, and networks for equity by raising awareness and connecting essential resources

Attendance

Members

Chaplain Michael Needham (MN), President	X	Lori Clark (LC), Treasurer	X
Joseph Gil (JG), Communications Officer	E	John Imhoff (JI), Secretary	X
Jean Wagner (JW), Volunteer Coordinator	X	Diana Murphy (DM), Nassau Resource Center	X
Carol Siver (CS), Grace United Methodist Church	E	Mary Scallon (MS), Grace United Methodist Church	A
Rev. Ed Van Kampen (EV), Nassau Resident	X	Rev. Dion Marquit (DM) – Grace United Methodist Church	A
Shaykha Sheila DS Foraker (SF), AQRT Sufi Order	A		

X – Present E – Excused A - Absent

Guests

Dr. Michael O’Leary – Former Commissioner of Columbia County Department of Mental Health

Zak Onkaya-Budak – Nassau Resident

Janet Van Kampen - Nassau Resident

Meeting Minutes:

Opened meeting with introductions by attendees present.

Opening Reflection - EV

Motion to approve minutes from May 2022 Committee Meeting (EV)

- Second – (DM)
- Discussion – Minutes are posted to website for transparency
- Motion Carried; For – 6 , Against – 0, Abstan - 0

Reflection on S&S Event from June 11th

- S&S allowed us to come and set up table to sell ice cream, have the mic to speak to the crowd and meet people who were there.

- Smile's donated the ice cream novelties – refused to let us pay her for the materials or for making the novelties for us.
 - Event resulted in \$783 in ice cream sales and donations
 - Start, Stop, Continue assessment of the event
 - We should do more of this, easy and fun – much less work than our BBQ
 - Maybe do another event at Music in the Park – village event – date pending
 - Pay for the Ice Cream in future,
 - Recognize Smile's at the table in the future
- Letter of appreciation – Joe sent thank you letter for S&S and Smile's

Strawberry Festival on July 23rd

- Will have a soft open house during this event to mingle with community
- Need to notify social media outlets and should send out letters to Library, Senior Center, churches, police, village and town government, etc. about the open house.

Community Center – Things that need to be done before opening

- Light fixture in office area needs replacement
- Storm door (front) needs to be replaced – church will pay for, but we need to replace
- Door threshold at ramp in office sticks and needs to be adjusted.
- Storm door at ramp in office doesn't latch and needs to have a latch installed
- Need to install door buzzer for client to use if door is closed
- Install shelving – MN may have these at his office
- Air Conditioning – Church needs to decide whether we can install the exhaust vent through wall
- Key box for front door for volunteers to use
- Contact Spectrum for internet access
- Officers will meet to discuss what we want for the Open House

Community Center Opening

- Opening on July 11th, 9AM-12PM
- Starting modestly.
- Two people (volunteers) always here
- Need to get
- We will grow our program and offerings as we go ahead from here
- “Do not despise humble beginnings”
- Zak has recently finished training and is now the number one substitute for schedule
- Will need to start making our monthly donations to Grace United Methodist Church in July

Assistance Provided

- LC working with woman who needed little assistance with rent for a couple of months to help make ends meet.
 - Looking to hire her, and offered her a signing bonus for the amount she needs.
- We offer temporary, acute help to those in need
- Not the same as Sunshine fund – we help those from beyond the village and are there for immediate assistance.
- Also have an apartment that we can offer for domestic violence victims.
- LC - Officers to meet with officers of the Sunshine Fund
 - July 7th at 6:30PM
 - Nassau Library
 - To review and discuss their bylaws and see if they are willing to amend/update

Officer's Reports

Volunteer Coordinator – JW

- JW prepared a list of things need to open (things not mentioned earlier in the meeting)
 - Food supplies, tea, trash bags, paper products, etc.
 - Screw / nail for holding up mirror in the bathroom – add to to-do list
 - Maybe power wash the porch to spiff it up a little – add to the list
 - EV – have we considered a phone? He feels it is important to have a phone for calling out... that we can leave here and is available for volunteers. Not to use for receiving calls, but for providing assistance and for clients who may need to call resource numbers.
 - Motion made (MN) to get a phone for the Center
 - Seconded (EV)
 - Discussion – those for a phone suggested that for emergencies, resources and for reaching out to community and volunteers a phone was good idea. Those against having a phone indicated that our resource guide provides contact numbers for our assistance and that no one will be here to monitor the phone if someone calls for assistance.
 - Motion Carried; For – 5, Against – 1, Abstain - 0

Secretary – JI

- We've discussed having a single list of email addresses that ensures that members and others are not left out of important messages / notifications.
- ZO suggested Google Sheets as a platform – we will take it up with officers to make something work

President - MN

- Thank you to everyone for all the hard work on the building in preparation for getting us to a point we can open. We are very appreciative of the time, resources and donations that people have offered.
- Intent is to build community, and we are already doing it with what we are doing together.

Treasurer – LC

- Next month, after MN makes deposits for the donations and proceeds from S&S fundraiser, LC will have a financial report.

Open Discussion – For the Good of the Cause

MO - Suggestions

- Recognition to S&S and Smiles to go to the local newspapers that are always looking for news articles. Great recognition and advertisement for those who support us.
- Phone is good idea where someone can leave message
- Sign out front – is the face of the organization and lets people know we are here
 - The sign would need to be worked through the church and historical
 - JW – maybe use banner that we already have for the short term

Closing Reflection - EV

Next Meeting – 12July2022