

Nassau Community Connections, Inc.

Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday March 21, 2023, 6:00 PM – Meeting Rescheduled from March 14, 2023

NCC 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	E	Lori Clark (LC), Treasurer	X
Joseph Gil (JG), Communications Officer	X	John Imhoff (JI), Secretary	X
Carol Siver (CS), Grace United Methodist Church	X	Dana Salazar Esq. (DS), Legal Council	E
Ken Scallon (KS), St. Mary's Church	A	Mary Scallon (MS), Grace United Methodist Church	A
Rev. Ed Van Kampen (EV), Community Member	E	Diana Murphy (DM), Nassau Resource Center	X
Zak Onkaya-Budak (ZO) – Nassau Resident	X	Dr. Michael O'Leary (MO), Fmr Commissioner of Columbia County Department of Mental Health	X
Janet Van Kampen (JV) – Community Member	E	Ashley Strom (AS) – Resident	A

X – Present E – Excused A - Absent

Meeting Minutes:

Opening Moment of Silent Reflection

- Short discussion on the intent of a moment of silence reflection, rather than an opening reflection/prayer at the start of the meeting. Intent to be inclusive to those who might wish to participate, but who might hold concern that NCC is a faith-based organization rather than a committee that includes members who representing their faith, and others who participate for other personal reasons.
 - Considering opening meetings with a reflection or by thoughtfully reciting our mission statement, preferably with our Mission Statement printed and posted on the wall, so that we can focus on why we are meeting.
- Healthy Alliance
 - JI - briefly opened with a discussion around Healthy Alliance, and initial conversations around registering as both a service provider and a referrer of clients to Healthy Alliance for needed assistance.

- The terms of the service provider contract was not deemed acceptable by legal council's contract attorney.
 - The contract to be a referrer is much more amenable and is essentially a license agreement for using the organization's on-line/computer based assistance platform that would allow our case worker(s) to be able to enter (with consent) client information to a portal that would allow member service providers to view the client's specific needs and potentially offer aid.
 - ZO indicated that he would like to review the contract before signing and making decisions to move forward. JI will obtain and circulate the contract for review.
- New Officer Position
 - JI indicated that the officers had frequently been reaching out to Michael O'Leary for his input on various matters and he has graciously agreed to become an Officer of Case Management to assist us in extending assistance to those in need.
 - DM - made motion to create an Officer of Case Management position created and to have Michael O'Leary act in that capacity. JI – seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by all committee members present.
- Assistance Provided (LC)
 - The individual referred to us by The Sunshine Fund for additional financial assistance with their car repairs: Car is repaired, the bill has been paid, and the vehicle owner will start paying back the NCC loan in April.
 - LC is assisting another individual with their unemployment needs.
 - The individual who borrowed funds for renting a U-Haul truck in order to move back to be near relative(s) in Nassau is repaying the funds loaned.
 - An individual who Lori had been in contact with for assistance has moved out of the immediate area to Albany.
- Officer's Reports
 - MN - President excused for meeting
 - LC – Treasurer – Nothing further.
 - JI - Secretary – Currently catching up on old minutes. Focusing on writing up and will send out for review.
 - JG - Communications Officer –
 - JG has created a sign for the Community Center that can be placed in the front lawn.
 - Need to have a frame built to hold it. MO volunteered to work up a plan and materials list and JI will find assistance and work to build/Install it.
 - Also designed a sign to announce Game Night and will add "This Tuesday" so that the sign can be placed in the lawn a few days ahead of scheduled events.
 - Raised officer's discussions around the importance of expanding our active membership.
 - He's looked into a postcard/ mailing to send to the local residents indicating who we are with a request to get involved. The mailing will cost \$300-\$500 if that's something we're interested in pursuing.
 - JC will get the final version of the bylaws onto the website to make them available – JI will send the final copy to him.
- Other Topics Raised
 - CS suggested that we use the church house as a warming station during emergency events similar to the recent power outage as a place where people can get out of the cold.
 - Group discussed researching options for other warming stations where people with no power or heat can go for warmth and other necessities during these events that might be better suited for longer term accommodations (i.e., Fire house or the ambulance station).

- Group reaffirmed the commitment to being available to find alternatives for people who need to get warm.
- DM wanted to make the Committee aware that Reverend Van Kampen was ill with advanced kidney failure and to keep him in our thoughts and prayers.
- JI raised previous discussion about building an outdoor pantry/cabinet for food/necessities for people in need that would be available 24–7. MN a JI will build it and then we can find a place to set it up.
- ZO – announced that he is currently doing an internship with local assemblyman Scott Bennett and that Mr. Bendett has offered to make a \$250 donation to Nassau Community Connections.
 - JG will compose a press release, announcing the donation and thanking Mr. Bendett for his generosity to our cause that we can post in the Advertiser.
- The committee discussed some of the issues facing the village that make it challenging for businesses that might wish to open up shop (i.e., little commercial zoning, depressed looking village center).
 - MO suggested inviting representatives from the village to come to one of our meeting so we could have open discussions about how things might be made better.
 - As a group, we also considered attending village meetings to make our voices/opinions heard.
 - The officers will discuss how best to proceed during the officer's meeting next week.

The next NCC Committee meeting is scheduled for April 11.