

Manchester Initiative for Supportive Housing

Minutes of July 11, 2007

Attendees:

Joan Dower, Mike Cunningham, Jay Stoppelman, Lynne Gustafson, Cindy Hall, Jack Cotter, John Gibbs, Rev. Karen Fedorchak, Dianne McPherson, Boris Gerber, Sarah Edwards, Kathleen Grover, Ken Harley, Gary Sweet, David Smith, Barb Frazier, Tom Stringfellow, Jody Wynn Rodiger, John Foley, Mary Foley, Brad Mondschein, Mary Voiland, Jackie Champion, Anne Carr, Suzanne Jolissaint, Ellen Sostman Laramie, Odis Coleman, Eileen Sweeney, Carole Fay, Edith Perlwitz.

Chair: David Blackwell

Reflection: Rev. Fedorchack read the story of the Good Samaritan and asked: Who do we recognize as our neighbor? How do we show our neighbor kindness? How do we share our faith with our neighbor?

Highland Park School Presentation

David Blackwell introduced the principal of Highland Park School, Kate Colavecchio, and one of the 6th grade students, Tielar Brown. The 6th Grade Class at Highland Park had a Reader's Theater fundraiser for MISH. The students spent many hours practicing plays, poems and short sticks, and invited their families, friends and neighbors. They raised over \$900 for MISH. Sarah Edwards helped organize this event. David presented the principal with a framed Certificate of Appreciation.

Upon motion duly made and second, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt the minutes of May 23, 2007.

One amendment: David Blackwell's address was corrected.

Announcements

CBDG funds - \$10,000 will be decided on in the next two weeks.

CSH is sending out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for consultants.

Habitat for Humanity - Jay Stoppelman announced wall raising on Loomis Street next Thursday, with Christians, Jews and Moslems.

Mike Cunningham went on week-long bike ride to promote poverty awareness. They visited Liberty Commons, a supportive housing facility in Middletown. We could probably get a tour organized if there is interest.

MISH/MCHC

David asked the group to think about how MISH and MCHC will work together. There was discussion on whether it makes sense to have MISH continue as the informal entity and MCHC be the formal entity. David likened it to an NRZ (Neighborhood Revitalization Zone) model that allows citizens to get together and address problems and participate in the discussions, but only a handful actually have

voting authority. There is a role for everyone. Jody mentioned she had participated in the same type of model in Buffalo where a handful of people had a formal role but it gave a lot of people a voice.

It was noted that MISH has done some good things, i.e. talking to other churches and groups. Also, that we need a broader base of people in order to have a good representation of Manchester. MISH has "name" recognition. We also discussed getting more minority representation. For now, the model seems to work and can always be revisited at a later time.

We also want to make sure that the MCHC churches keep the pastors and congregations aware of what we are doing so they continue to support us.

David Blackwell then turned the meeting over to David Smith, President of MCHC, to convene the official Annual Meeting of MCHC.

MISH meeting reconvened.

David Blackwell proposed not having an August meeting of MISH, but that there be August meetings of the Committees: Site Committee - Chair, Gary Sweet; Services Committee - Chair, Kathleen Grover; and Awareness Committee - Chair, Mike Cunningham. It also makes sense to merge Awareness Committee with Core Group Committee.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 20, at Center Congregational Church.

It was suggested that we set up a schedule of meetings so it's easier for churches to know if they can host.

Submitted by: Dianne McPherson