

Meeting Notes (10-23-2008)

Park Avenue Faith Community Collaborative

Attending(sign-up sheet attached): Jon Sloan (First Presbyterian); Bruce Wallace (First Presbyterian); Elizabeth Day (Park Avenue Community); Dina Habere (First UU); Louise Jeffrey (First UU); Walt Zecchini (Good Neighbor Ministries); Stephen Stout (Good Neighbor Ministries); Debbie Harnsberger (First UU); Kevin Marik (MCC-Omaha); Russ Smith (UNO)

- Russ Smith introduced himself and explained his role in the absence of Brittany Hanson (out of town for a conference).
- A meeting agenda was distributed (attached) and those attending made quick introductions.
- As a result of the small attendance, it was decided by the group that:
 - The meeting should be informal and not focused on the planned agenda
 - A full meeting should be scheduled for November 20, 2008, with a discussion of naming, accomplishments for 2008, and future directions discussed
- Russ Smith distributed the results of the “naming” survey. It was noted that 12 people participated. A question was raised about the pros and cons of including “faith” in the name. Several points were discussed.
- Kevin Marik shared a handout (attached) and some thoughts about the clothing needs that have been identified through the Saturday community meal initiative. Discussion followed and included the following points and decisions:
 - People see significant needs for clothing at the Saturday community meal
 - There are a number of winter clothing items that are needed (see Kevin’s handout)
 - First Baptist Church, as well as many of the collaborating churches and faith organizations, have clothing closets and/or special clothing drives
 - It was decided that a small task force comprises of Bruce, Kevin, Walt, and Dina (?) would meet on November 13th (First Presbyterian, 11:00 a.m.) to discuss options for meeting clothing needs. The thinking is that the meal provides an ideal time to also meet the clothing needs of community members.
 - Several strategies will be researched and then discussed at the 11/13 meeting, including:
 - Partnering with those community-based organizations that run large clothes “closets” that might be willing to come to First Baptist Church on one or more Saturdays each month
 - Working with Park Avenue faith collaborators to carry out a winter coat/clothing drive to distribute clothes at the Saturday community meal
 - Several other ideas and opportunities will be further explored for reporting at the 11/13 task force meeting:

- Partnering with department stores, sporting goods stores, etc. re: winter clothing donations
 - Seeking funding through the community grant programs of Target and Wal-Mart for winter clothing
- Discussion next focused on other needs of community meals guests. Again, the perspective of meeting participants was that the meal provides a time for connecting community members to existing resources. Several ideas were identified:
 - Offer health and dental screenings. It was noted that poor dental health is common among the guests. One outcome is that many cannot eat fresh vegetables and fruits. Perhaps Creighton University's dental clinic could do screenings?
 - "Project Homeless" was also identified. This is scheduled some time in the coming 3-4 weeks and will take place on the Creighton University campus. Area homeless will be able to eat breakfast and lunch and visit with human and social service providers. Flyers should be available at the Saturday meal to publicize this resource.
 - "Comfort" and personal items would be nice to distribute (e.g., hand lotion, soap, tooth brushes and paste, etc.). This might be an area for work, as well.
- Several other issues were discussed:
 - Several asked if the calendar is up-to-date. Are meal menus being posted, so those preparing Saturday meals can see what was previously served?
 - The Food Bank is a resource for purchasing food for preparation. Kevin Marik will send information to the e-mail list.
- It was decided that the full group should meet on November 20. First Presbyterian Church will host the meeting, which will start at 11:00 a.m. and conclude no later than 1:00 p.m. The agenda will include the items scheduled for the 10-23-08 meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Attending 10/23

Name

Organization

1. Jon Sloan First Presbyterian
2. BRUCE WALLACE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
3. Elizabeth Day Park Ave. Community (House)
4. Dina Habee First U
5. Louise Jeffrey First UU
6. Walt Zecchini ENM
7. ~~B~~ Stephen Stout Good Neighbor Ministries
8. Debbie Hunsbeger First UU
9. Kevin Maritz MCC-Omaha

CLOTHES DRIVE
CLOTHING ITEMS NEEDED

WINTER COATS

HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES

JEANS/HEAVY PANTS

BOOTS

LONG SLEEVE SHIRTS

SWEATERS

BLANKETS

CLOTHES FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN

MEETING AGENDA

10-23-2008

Park Avenue Faith Community Collaborative Meeting

1. Brief Introductions & Review Agenda

2. Updates

- a. Winter Clothing Drive**
- b. Other Updates?**

3. Discuss Results of “Naming” Survey

4. Open Discussion on Thoughts About “Next Steps”

- a. Quick Review of January & February 2008 Planning Meetings**
- b. Brainstorm Ideas on Next Steps**
- c. Open Discussion**

5. Wrap-Up

- Community Meal – Every Saturday, 11:30 – 1:00, First Baptist Church
- Next meeting – January 2009; date and location TBA

Bringing the area faith community together in service to the local neighborhood: each participant motivated by his or her individual faith perspective to respond relationally in service to pressing local needs and concerns.