

Neighbors United Meeting Summary - April 23, 2009

Attending

1. Caitie Caughey, *Mosaic Community Development*
2. Jodi Cooper, *Mosaic Community Development*
3. Dana Givens, *Mosaic Community Development*
4. Kay Lynn Goldner, *First Unitarian Church*
5. Christian Gray, *Mosaic Community Development*
6. Brittany Hanson, *Mosaic Community Development*
7. Kevin Marik, *Metropolitan Community Church*
8. Pr. Kip Mickelson, *First Baptist Church*
9. Melanie Naughtin, *First Central Congregation*
10. Rev. Kate Rohde, *First Unitarian Church*
11. Wanda Selzer, *First Lutheran Church*
12. Rev. Jonathan Sloan, *First Presbyterian Church*
13. Dr. Russ Smith, *University of Nebraska, Omaha*
14. Bruce Wallace, *First Presbyterian Church*

Overview

- Members of the Park Avenue faith community met on April 23, 2009 at First Unitarian Church; drinks and cookies were generously provided by FUU church members.
- The focus of the meeting was to receive updates from the current working groups (listed on agenda), review details of two upcoming Neighbors United events: (a) May 9 - Community Concert and (b) May 23 - Collective Community Meal, and finally to discuss several upcoming funding opportunities.
- A plea was put out to fill two Community Meal dates not yet scheduled: May 30th and June 6th.
- Meeting agendas (attached) were distributed, brief introductions were made, and the meeting was facilitated by Brittany Hanson.

Upcoming Event Update & Details

Community Concert (May 9)

- The NU Community concert will be at First Lutheran Church, 542 S. 31st St May 9, 2009 at 5:00pm.
- It will be a collective community concert promoted and put on by faith communities participating in Neighbors United; each participating faith community will be allotted an equal time segment in the concert and is responsible for planning, practicing and preparing their own time segment.
- There will be a short reception for fellowship in the community after the concert. We are still looking for folks in the faith community to bring light refreshments.

Shared Community Meal (May 23)

- A collective community meal will be prepared and served by faith communities participating in Neighbors United and/or Community Meals on Saturday May 23, 2009 from 11:30-1:00 at First Baptist Church.

Who will participate?

- All groups participating in Neighbors United or the Community Meals are invited to participate.
- If your faith community is interested in participating in the NU Shared Community Meal, please contact Brittany Hanson or Dana Givens (brittany@mosaiccd.org, dana@mosaiccd.org or 402-933-6672)

What will each group bring?

- Metropolitan Community Church -- 275 hamburgers, 100 hot dogs
- First Baptist Church -- hamburger buns, hot dog buns
- Neighbors United -- water, lemonade, plates, napkins, cups
- First Lutheran Church -- chips, additional water coolers
- We still need additional sides and desserts. Each faith community committed to participating will be responsible to provide one component of the meal.

Working Group Updates

- A representative from each working group reported the progress of their respective working group.

Organizational Development

- Group is continuing to research the different levels of membership in the NU group, i.e. who can make decisions, dues, etc.
- Looking into an organizational specialist with experience in constructing bylaws to help develop bylaws for NU and work on voting avenues for decisions in Park Ave.

Neighbors United Promotion

- Group has made contact with WOWT and KETV; they are potentially interested in working with NU.
- Roger at KFAB is willing to have someone from the group on the morning program.
- Sheryl from KVNO has offered to interview for Community Concert.
- Other contacts have been made at different media sources.
- Invitations to the Community Concert are made up and ready to go.
- FCC, FPC and MCC have coordinated a Vacation Bible School for the kids this summer and are open if any other NU churches would like to join.

Community Meals

- Group has contacts at Methodist College for medical services.

- Group has contacted with a social worker.
- Six people are willing to come on a Saturday and give haircuts.
- Located a volunteer willing to teach a resume class.
- Contact in nursing school willing to look into having class do blood pressure tests and other medical services.
- Contact has been made with KMLC regarding help of parish nurse at Community Meal.
- Contact made with someone who is interested in pursuing Art Therapy in the area.

Discussion - Possible Strategy for Helping Park Ave. Neighbors

- A discussion on a possible strategy for helping Park Ave neighbors via several upcoming and fast-moving funding opportunities was brought to the table for discussion (see attached).
- The possible strategy draws upon the ideas and strategies developed in several 2009 Neighbors United planning sessions and monthly meetings.
- Only 501©3 organizations can apply for the funding; Mosaic Community Development is willing to apply on behalf of Neighbors United.
- After a lengthy and robust discussion of the funding options and the potential strategy for providing additional opportunities and services to local neighbors, the consensus was that a task force would be developed to further explore and potentially make applications for available funding.
- The task force will be meeting and committing to work forward on these ideas; the meeting will be on Wednesday April 29 at 10am at First Presbyterian Church.

Wrap Up

- Community Concert - May 9, 5:00pm, First Lutheran Church
- Shared Community Meal - May 23, 11:30-1:00 First Baptist Church
- Community Meal - Every Saturday 11:30 - 1:00 First Baptist Church
- Next Neighbors United meeting - May 28, 11:00-1:00 at First Presbyterian Church