

Outreach Meeting, April 8, 2021 Minutes

Zoom Meeting

Present: Donna Hess, Georgeanne Hoover, Terri Silver, Renee LaCombe, David Owen, Martha Williams, and guest Frank Hairston.

Donna opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and invited Frank Hairston to speak.

KING KENNEDY GYM

Frank told a personal story of his history with the McElrath community in Ravenna and the origins, fifty years ago, of the King Kennedy Center there. At long last, major funding is now in place to build a gym at the King Kennedy Center (funds coming largely from state mental health funds, the local Mental Health and Recovery Board, and Portage County). The gym will provide not only a space for recreation but also a space for pop-up clinics providing medical, dental, and mental health services. The gym would be available for use by a large population in and around the McElrath neighborhood. The hope is that the gym will be built by mid July this year. Frank is looking to churches and others to help for a few years, until they get on their feet, with some of the expenses that are expected once the gym is built (furniture, utilities, etc.). We thanked Frank for his presentation.

OPENING PRAYER, MISSION STATEMENT AND MINUTES

Donna acknowledged we are working prayerfully, read the Kent UCC Mission Statement, and asked if there were comments on the minutes.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOUSE

Donna relayed Linnea's report on the Habitat house. This Saturday is the last day...they'll be cleaning things up inside and out. She doesn't yet know the date for the dedication ceremony.

BEN CURTIS BIRDIE BAGS

No updates as of now. At our next meeting, we'll have to decide on a distribution day and the hours. We'll need 4 volunteers each distribution day (once per week all summer long).

FIVE FOR FIVE OFFERINGS

One Great Hour of Sharing was in March, gifts totaled \$1,153. We all appreciated the improvements to the website that made giving to OGHS easier.

Strengthen the Church is our next Five for Five offering. It will be May 23. David will do an introduction to the UCC's Strengthen the Church video. This will be included in the service on May 9.

COUNCIL REPORT

The church will not be applying for a second PPP loan (not eligible).

The lighting project is going forward. Total cost is \$75,000. \$35,000 will hopefully be raised through fundraising....expect to hear about it.

Nayiri (from Living Waters Association) spoke to Council about restructuring our governance and after her presentation/discussion, council voted unanimously to form a committee to study new governance structures for our church. Expect to hear more about this.

Everyone is urged to participate in the class organized by the Social Justice and Advocacy Committee that begins this Sunday. Class is led by Sunny Matthews and it is about Martin Luther King's Challenge to the Church. The class runs 4 Sundays, 2 pm – 3:30 pm, beginning April 11.

MONETARY DONATIONS

So far this year, we've given \$2,050. We have about \$9,000 left in our budget to give.

(Gifts to date have gone to Portage County warming center, Hartville Migrant Ministries, Kent Social Services Capital Campaign, and Kent Interfaith Council for Racial Justice.)

King Kennedy Center Gym

We discussed Frank's request on behalf of King Kennedy Center. We decided to commit \$1,500 per year for three years. This year, \$1,500 will come out of our budget, and in the next two years, we must remember to fulfill this promise out of those years' budgets. If we do not have the funds in our budget those years, we will have to raise the funds.

In addition to giving from our budget, we discussed how we might broaden our reach to include the church community. We discussed having a fundraiser spaghetti dinner, possibly in partnership with the Social Justice committee. Hopefully we could do this some Sunday after church in late September or October. We also will consider making the King Kennedy Center Gym the recipient of at least part of our Christmas offering in 2021.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The Easter Basket Drive at KSS was a huge success.

Stewardship would like pictures and videos of our events.

Next meeting is Monday, May 10, 7 pm....via zoom (or possibly in person in the parking lot, weather permitting, at the last minute.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Martha Williams