

Outreach Meeting, September 13, 2021, Minutes

Present: Donna Hess, Renee LaCombe, David Owen, Linnea Ray, Georgeanne Hoover, Terri Silver, Martha Williams

Donna opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with a prayer. The minutes from the August meeting were approved.

BIRDIE BAGS

Linnea said the meeting re. how Birdie Bags might work next summer will not occur until after the first of the year, as Candace is very busy with other things until then. Linnea will keep us posted when the meeting does occur. One suggestion we have is that taking the Birdie Bags to people (rather than expecting them to come pick them up) might be better.

KENT SOCIAL SERVICES SHOPPING CART

Schedule to take food from cart to KSS at end of month...

September...David

October...Donna

November....Terri, Martha (will likely include Bob Clark Turkey gifts)

December.....Linnea

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Donna has talked with Heather to put a giving button on Engage.

Donna will do the appeal in the church service on September 19 (probably use the little video from UCC, with a short intro).

Terri will check with Leah to see if we've received the pamphlets, and ask Leah to put them in the bulletin.

SAFER FUTURES HOPE IN A HANDBAG SPONSORSHIP

We will send \$1250 which is a second tier sponsorship, the level we have given for the past two years. In addition, we will collect handbags, either new or gently used, for it. Donna will put a note in the Friday update on Oct. 1 about donating handbags, and we will have a table at church to collect the bags on Oct. 3 (Donna), 10 (Georgeanne) and 17 (Renee). Hope to use the round table upstairs by the elevator.

COUNCIL REPORT

Time Capsule was discussed.

We're renting out parking spaces again.

Discussed church opening on Sept. 12.

On October 3, Nayiri (from Living Waters Association, who is helping with our new governance model) will be preaching. The idea had been that we'd have a potluck and break into small groups to discuss new governance ideas. Reactions from our committee...now with new Covid rules (i.e. no potlucks, no eating in church), this probably won't work. A question raised ...is Council, or whoever is working on the new governance model, going to publish anything about it for us to read before then?

KENT ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

We apparently received a request for dues of \$100 from Kent Environmental Council. No one on the committee remembers us ever doing this. We agreed that we'd send them \$100 this year, one time only. In the future this should not come from our budget.

SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANT INVOLVING NAACP

Social Justice is writing a grant for a summer program for Middle School minority youth to develop leadership skills. If they get the grant, we might be able to help out, either with hands-on help or financially to cover costs not covered by the grant.

CROP WALK

Amy suggested we organize a group for the Crop Walk this year (Oct. 3 is this year's date). It will be virtual. The committee recalled that this used to be something the youth group did. (The way it worked before, the youth did the walk and the adults wrote the sponsorship checks.) Terri will talk to Kim to see if the youth might organize a team.

AFGHAN REFUGEES

The committee would like to see if we can do anything to help Afghan Refugees. It's our understanding that several are coming to the Akron-Cleveland area. Donna will talk to Amy to see if she knows what the contact group is. (Might be International Institute of Akron, though this is a different agency than the one we worked with several years ago, in about 2018.) We need to contact whatever agency is working with them to find out how we can help.

VOLUNTEER BULLETIN BOARD INSIDE CHURCH

Renee will be sending each of us some info regarding the update to the bulletin board. She wants to know which groups should remain on the board, which ones to remove, and if there are new ones to add.

STEWARDSHIP QUESTIONS

Stewardship asked what we did for the mission of the church this past year (2021) and what we will do this coming year (2022). Donna will send them the info. For 2021, she listed all the different groups we've supported monetarily, as well as noting that many labor hours went into building a house. She also listed some of our planned financial gifts for next year.

MONETARY DONATIONS...

As noted above, we are sending \$1,250 to Safer Futures for the Hope in a Handbag sponsorship, and \$100 to Kent Environmental Council.

This leaves \$4,850 for our end of year distributions.

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be October 11 at 7 pm, location TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Williams