



MINUTES

HUMAN NEEDS TASK FORCE

CITY HALL SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
505 BUTLER PLACE
PARK RIDGE, IL 60068

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017 AT 8:30AM

*"To assess the human needs of the community and to help ensure that they are met by utilizing existing resources.
To identify areas of human needs not currently met by existing resources and recommend a plan to address those needs.
To raise awareness and promote more efficient communication as it relates to the human needs of the community."*

Members Present: John Benka, Darlene Hejza, Lee Joesten, Kate Kerin, Floyd Kortenhof, Alex LaChapelle, Liz Swanson and Adrienne Timm

Members Absent: David Aslesen, Laura Dee, Milada Gorelik, Erin Lawler, John McNabola, Rev. Lynne Morrow, Millie O'Brien, Ramon Sanchez, and Marsha Warnick

Also Present: Brigid Madden

I. Invocation

Invocation offered by Alex LaChapelle.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes

Meeting Minutes from November 8, 2016 approved.

John Benka explained that an inquiry was made at the last Healthy Community Collation meeting about whether the Human Needs Task Force (HNTF) would be setting goals at the beginning of the year. He suggested that this be an Action Item on the February agenda.

The members discussed City Council Proclamation honoring the 25th Anniversary of Human Needs Task Force. Mr. Benka requested copies of the document for current and former Task Force members.

III. Presentation – None

IV. Ongoing Business

A. Community Needs – None

B. Food Drive

Darlene Hejza stated that the Food Drive went well. She thanked Mr. Benka for his work with the schools each year and said that he was missed this year. Harp & Fiddle and Ace Hardware were new participants this year.

C. Review of Funds

Current account balance: \$1609.99.

Brigid Madden provided a detailed account history from the last two years. Rev. LaChapelle acknowledged the Police Department's pastoral fund need. Ms. Madden explained that she contacted Deputy Chief Jogmen and he indicated that the holidays had impacted their reserves.

Kate Kerin explained that traditionally \$500 is maintained in the account. She suggested a disbursement of \$500 to the Police Department and \$500 to the Center of Concern. Ms. Hejza asked how the Police Department acquires its funds. Local churches and the Ministerial Association contribute.

Lee Joesten referenced the previous meeting's minutes, which mention Sunday Night Suppers as a possible recipient of funding. Sunday Night Suppers received approximately \$900 from the Ministerial Association's Thanksgiving Service.

Ms. Madden explained that the Task Force received a \$400 donation from Mike Staff Productions in December for the Food Drive.

On a motion by Kate Kerin, seconded by Lee Joesten, the Human Needs Task Force voted unanimously to contribute \$500 to the Police Department and \$500 to the Center of Concern.

V. Agency/Church Reports

Access Community Health Network

No Report.

Avenues to Independence

Floyd Korten Hof distributed the latest Avenues newsletter, which highlights the new home near Lutheran General Hospital. He explained that the house was extensively renovated and now houses five individuals.

Center of Concern (COC)

No Report

Environmental Health

No Report.

First United Methodist Church

No Report.

Healthy Community Collation

John Benka stated that Chief Kaminski spoke at the December 2nd Collation meeting about a new grant which will be used to demonstrate intervention training to other police departments. Police Social Worker, Geri Silic, reported that a majority of police calls are non-criminal and relate to family disputes. Mr. Benka indicated that the Police Department continues to work with Lutheran General Hospital to develop a relationship between the Police Department and hospital staff. He added that Chief Kaminski would like to increase community awareness of the Police Department's new emphasis on mental health training.

The next Collation meeting is January 27, 2017.

Lutheran General Hospital

No Report.

Maine East High School

No Report.

Maine Township

No Report.

Mary Seat of Wisdom Church (MSW)

Darlene Hejza explained that 170 shoeboxes were sent to St. Thomas of Canterbury and Catholic Charities at Christmas. Food was provided to Maine Township. 40 gifts were sent to Julia Center, 175 to Epiphany, ten to Center of Concern and 20 to parish clients. Ms. Hejza added that toys were donated to Catholic Charities, household items to Deborah's Place and clothes and personal items to Wings. MSW is currently collecting white socks and small toiletries to be distributed in January.

Ms. Hejza explained that a parishioner in need of assistance approached her. She referred him to the Center of Concern for utility assistance and will follow-up with John McNabola. John Benka asked if the earlier disbursements should be amended to assist with the resident's electric bill. Ms. Hejza stressed the importance of working with the Center of Concern. Mr. Benka suggested that Mr. McNabola provide an update at the next meeting.

Park Ridge Community Church (PRCC)

No Report.

Park Ridge Community Fund (PRCF)

No report.

Park Ridge Ministerial Association (PRMA)

Lee Joesten provided the final report from the Crop Walk. \$35,720 was raised; 25% of which was donated to the Maine Township Food Pantry. He explained that the fundraising goal was \$40,000 because of the 25th anniversary. While some people were discouraged, Rev. Joesten explained that \$35,000 might just be the "ceiling" for the event. He added that the silent auction was quite successful. Initial contributions made by "Friends of the Crop Walk" are used for operating costs, including t-shirts.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Alex LaChapelle indicated that Sunday Night Suppers continued to go very well. He explained that outside gifts were provided around the holidays, including shoeboxes from St. Paul of the Cross. There was strong turnout on both Christmas and New Year's Day. Rev. LaChapelle explained that Snap Kitchen closed, but Whole Foods continues to contribute to the Suppers. St. Luke's has committed to a fifth year of hosting Sunday Night Suppers. He added that the hope is to promote a five-year commitment to provide consistency for the guests.

Liz Swanson stated that the Park Ridge Community Church hosts the Sunday Night Supper the first week of December as St. Luke's has a Candlelight Service. She indicated that this year there was a strong turnout. Rev. LaChapelle explained that guests are provided reminder cards.

St. Paul of the Cross Church

Adrienne Timm stated that 150 households participated in Thanksgiving and Christmas food distribution. Of that 150, 100 households qualified for the Adopt-a-Family program. In order to qualify, families must come to the food pantry at least four times throughout the year, thus demonstrating a true need. Ms. Timm explained that 65% of those participating in Adopt-a-Family are Spanish speaking and from the Des Plaines area. Craig Fallico, a Spanish teacher at Maine West, and the students in the Spanish Club help translate for families providing their "wish lists." Ms. Timm added that since Christmas, she has received calls for rental and car repair assistance.

VI. New Business

Mr. Benka read a passage from Our Lady of Ransom's recent bulletin.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15am.