

INTERFAITH OPEN COMMUNITIES
HYDE PARK CLUSTER MEETING
Minutes of Feb. 13, 2006

Present: Don Coleman, Mark Granfors, Allan Lindrup, Joe Marlin, Pat Wilcoxon, Marlene Vellinga, John and Brenda Murphy, Anne Holcomb, Ken Oliver, Kenni James, Keith Fry and Steve Cauley (from Lutheran School of Theology).

Pat Wilcoxon called the meeting to order shortly after 8:00.

Don Coleman reflected on a conference he attended in Tijuana at a center for people preparing to try to cross the border into the U.S. 3,000 crosses had been erected for those who died trying to cross this border. People were sleeping in the streets, and surely one of the reasons they wanted to go to the U.S. was to be able to provide decent housing for their families.

Mark reported on the Transitional Housing Project fundraiser, "Cabin Fever," which will take place on February 25 at 6:00 at Augustana Lutheran Church. Preparations are proceeding very well and the Transitional Housing Project is gaining a lot of publicity.

Don reported that the THP has about \$18,000 in the bank and is making plans to take on a second family. He stated that he was pleased with the progress of the client family. Debbie is on track to start her pre-apprenticeship program on March 20, and her son has been admitted to Howard University and Northern Illinois University thus far, and is waiting to hear from three more schools that he applied to. Her daughter is on the honor roll.

The Hyde Park Housing Forum will take place on Saturday morning, April 29th from 9:00-12:00 at First Unitarian Church. Kenni reported that she had done some research on the availability of affordable senior housing in Woodlawn, and found that there were a number of things available there. Kenni, John and Brenda attended a Hyde Park & Kenwood Community Conference meeting at which the Hyde Park Bank agreed to be a co-sponsor for the Forum.

The "Committee in Search of a Name" met with the developer of the project at 53rd and Cornell, and John reported that this developer came out of Pilsen and pledged himself to provide affordable units, if not on site, then in Hyde Park, if he could get land. This committee will meet with Alderman Hairston on February 21 and discuss, among other things, the future of Doctors' Hospital.

Ken distributed the 2006 Spring Session Legislative Update on housing issues prepared by IOC and there was considerable discussion.

Ken reported that seats on the bus are available for Affordable Housing Lobby Day on February 23 and that more volunteers for this trip are desired. The bus will leave at 8:00 a.m. and start loading about 7:00.

Pat reported that the 35th Ward has put a referendum on their ballot to the effect that the City of Chicago shall enact the affordable housing set-aside ordinance.

John reported that on Good Friday the Catholic Voices will have a station devoted to homelessness at their Eighth Day Center “walkaround.”

The next meeting is Monday, March 13th at St. Thomas the Apostle School.

Notes by Marlene Vellinga