

HYDE PARK CLUSTER MEETING
INTERFAITH OPEN COMMUNITIES
Minutes: December 13, 2004

Present: Pat Wilcoxon, Allan Lindrup, Joe Marlin, Marlene Vellinga, Gene Krell, Don Coleman, Melody Geraci, Mark Granfors, Sonya Hirschberg, Will White.

1. The meeting was convened at 8:05 P.M. by P. Wilcoxon who called for a volunteered reflection. When none was forthcoming, Pat asked for a silent reflection/meditation on the cluster's work, i.e., accomplishments, challenges and hopes for the future.
2. Shared Housing – Melody, SH Coordinator, reviewed progress report over the past 6 months focused on demographic highlights and problems peculiar to the shared housing initiative.
 - Most registered homeowner participants seek financial assistance; while most home seekers have limited income.
 - The shared housing concept more readily acceptable in suburban communities where social service agencies and church groups work collaboratively enabling matches from referrals. Establishing trust is a major issue in city/urban match making.
 - Student participation in the program limited by guidelines.
 - Funding – Second year funding from the Eleanor Foundation, Sara Lee Foundation and Topfer Family Foundation pending, while Retirement Research has granted 2nd year funding.
3. Transitional Housing
 - a. The resignation of the initial client family has been finalized and the family has vacated the apartment.
 - b. The process of identifying a new client family is underway. Teresa House is collaborating in this identification as well as other sources.
 - c. Efforts being made to recruit volunteers for site management, fund raising and affordable housing advocacy.
 - d. Fund raising and solicitation for financial support continue, while the current financial condition is stable.
4. Legislative Update
 - a. The Rental Housing Support Program has been reintroduced during the fall veto session. This measure has passed the House and awaits Senate action.
 - b. The task force for Director of Housing is seeking to have the Community Development Committee made a standing committee of the state Senate.

- c. The fate of Alderman Preckwinkle's affordable housing initiative remains unresolved. The mayor's position is unchanged and additional aldermanic support is needed for passage.

5. Other Business

- a. The new website address of the IOC is <http://iocillinois.org>
- b. The proposal for a multi-faith weekend commemorating the work of Dr. M.L. King and highlighting HP Cluster housing activities is being reviewed by the Hyde Park Interfaith Council. Active participation by each faith community is anticipated.
- c. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M. and the next meeting is scheduled for January 10th, 8:00 PM. At STA

Submitted by

W. White, Recorder