

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

Present: Gene Krell, Allan Lindrup, Ken Oliver, Pat Wilcoxon, Marlene Vellinga, Joe Marlin, Brenda and John MURphy, Will White.

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 P.M. by P. Wilcoxon, who asked Allan to give the Faith Reflection.
2. **Faith Reflection** - Allan, reflecting on the Creation, suggests that the Creation is on-going and unfinished; and that the related energy or creative force is continuous and instrumental inbringing about positive change.
3. **Legislative Update** - Ken reports on three (3) fronts, i.e.,
 - Springfield - The General Assembly will reconvene after the November elections for a 2-week veto session. Unfinished business includes housing initiatives SB 3007, HB 4439, and HB 4100.
 - Washington, D.C. - the administration's overtime rules are blocked by the House, housing legislation is stalled, and budget committees are looking to cut back programs.
 - Locally -
 - a. The affordable housing law is being debated and challenged in surrounding suburban communities.
 - b. Alderman Toni Preckwinkle's Inclusionary Housing ordinance continues to be opposed by the Mayor and is still shy of the aldermanic support needed for passage.
4. **Transitional Housing** - CORRECTION: The minutes of 8-10-04 referred to a special KAM Congregation fund in financial support of various causes, should have read financial contributions by KAM individuals to a fund supporting various causes.

Allan and Marlene report that while finances are in order, fund raising efforts continue. Also, due to excessive absences and/or tardiness, Linda, our client family head, was unable to successfully complete the ceramic tile apprenticeship program. Options for alternative employment are being pursued.

5. Other Business

- a. In an effort to bring needed attention and focus to the low income and affordable housing crises, the Murphys outlined a plan for a multi-faith weekend (Jan 15th) commemorating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King and his efforts to improve housing for the poor.
 - A collaboration with the Hyde Park Interfaith Council and each faith community in focusing community attention on the affordable housing issue.
 - Develop a public relations program to maximize attention to the issue and to provide opportunities to develop new housing initiatives and to become involved in IOC's Transitional Housing and Home Sharing Programs.
 - The Murphys also shared a letter to State Senator Barack Obama from Catholic Voices for Economic Justice enlisting his support of affordable housing issues.
- b. Let Justice Roll - A rally sponsored by the National Council of Churches on October 10th, at North Park University. The rally will have as its focus poverty, economic justice, and voting. A clergy-prayer breakfast follows the next day.
- c. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M., and the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 11th, 8:00 P.M., at STA in Room 106.

Submitted by,

W. White, Recorder