

Hyde Park Cluster Meeting INTERFAITH OPEN COMMUNITIES Minutes

September 8, 2003

Present: Sam Ackerman, Dan Coleman, Allan Lindrup, Pat Wilcoxon, Joanne Kent, Anne Holcomb, Jay Mulberry, Marlene Vellinga, Mark Granfors, Brenda and John Murphy, Jean and Will White, Nell Whitman.

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 P.M. by P. Wilcoxon, who asked D. Coleman to give the faith Reflection.
2. Faith Reflection -- Speaking on the nature of evil, D. Coleman stated that evil is the perpetration of death upon another or others, e.g., the Iraq Conflict. The opposite of "evil" is not necessarily "good" but instead is hope. In an atmosphere of hope evil cannot survive and that we, the HPCIIOC in our social justice efforts are seeking to create communities of hope,
3. Transitional Housing Project - A quarterly newsletter is being planned for distribution to the various faith communities, Community organizations and individual donors. This tool will be used for community outreach, fund raising and on-going updates of needs, projects and events.
 - a. THP will file for 501(c)(3) status with the IRS.
 - b. Our first guest family, headed by Linda, a single mother and her 3 year old daughter, has moved into our Hyde Park apartment. The support provided this family will hopefully translate into economic independence,
4. Shared Housing - W. White reports that the Shared Housing Committee continues exploratory meetings with the Lawyers Committee for Better Housing and progress is evidenced by:
 - a. The formulation of a written agreement between the LGBH and the IOC Hyde Park Cluster.
 - b. The funding goal of approximately \$100,000 is close to being reached. Commitments have been made by the Eleanor Foundation, the Retirement Research Group and the Chicago City Department on Aging.
 - c. Possible Hyde Park office space(s) for the group have been identified and being pursued.
 - d. Staffing - Interviewing continues for full time coordinator. The position to be filled by October.
5. Legislative Update
 - a. State - During this Fall's Amendatory Veto Session, no housing legislation will be considered. A roundtable, made up of several social, political and business groups, is being convened to craft an action plan on housing initiatives and issues in preparation for the post-holiday General Legislative Session.
 - b. County - A letter will be drafted and sent to Commissioner Jerry Butler urging his support of the Human Rights/Fair Housing Ordinance that seeks to prevent discrimination against people with Housing Choice Vouchers. Also, the letter will call for the elimination of any percentage caps or source of income limitations,
 - c. City -- Active promotion of Alderman Preckwinkle's Mandatory Set Asides/Inclusionary Zoning ordinance being made by the Protestants for the Common Good. Efforts to actively involve other IOC partners being made.
6. Other Business
 - a. The Coalition to Protect Public Housing will hold a press conference to rebut CHA charges of resident housing managers incompetence, which resulted in the dismissal of managers.
 - b. J, Mulberry will develop a Web Page for HPC-IOC. The site will feature information updates, calendars of events, fund raising, etc.
 - c. Date of regional meeting of IOC yet to be set.
 - d. Senator Dick Durbin will speak on the Separation of Church and State and 1st Amendment Rights at KAM Temple on Oct. 27th.

e. Hope 6 Rehab Program - Questionable use of these federal funds is the basis for Betty Willhqiit's, League of Women Voters and ADA, call for Congressional Hearings on this matter.

f. The next meeting is scheduled for October 12th, 8:00 P.M. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Submitted by,
W. White, Recorder