

Faith Relations Committee Minutes
February 27, 2020, 9:00 – 10:00am
Temple Beit Torah

Committee Members

Jeff Ader, *President, Temple Beit Torah*
Lane Campbell, *Major, Chaplain, US Air Force Academy*
Kobi Chumash, *Director of Hillel, Colorado College*
Pauli Hubbard, *Missions Team Leader, First Congregational Church*
Iah Pillsbury, *Rabbi, Temple Beit Torah*
Dave Resch, *Board Member, BodhiMind Center*
Jay Sherwood, *Rabbi, Temple Shalom*
Paula Stecker, *Pastor, Christ the King Lutheran Church*
Eric Stolp, *Thrivent Financial, PPHFH Board Member*
Barb Traecy, *PPHFH Board Member*
Jen Williamson, *Youth Minister, Grace & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church*

Guests/Staff

Dustin Alarid, *FIA Program Manager*
Sarah Bunch, *Donor Relations Manager*
Jan Plimpton, *Development Contractor*
Iain Probert, *Director of Strategic Partnerships*

Opening

Dustin Alarid opened the meeting at 9:02am with prayer.

Introductions

Committee members and staff members were introduced.

PPHFH Programs Overview

Mr. Alarid provided a brief recap of information included in January's meeting:

- Homeowners pay affordable mortgage and must have (1) Ability (2) Willingness (3) Need
- 90% of a home is built by volunteers
 - o *No experience needed, minimum age of 16 yrs*
 - o *Groups usually 10 people or less, Thursday-Saturday 8:30-4:30pm*
- Majority of funding comes from individual donors, corporate donors, grants, Gift in Kind, and Fund for Humanity (mortgages, ReStore proceeds)
- 2020 Avg. Habitat Home Cost is ~\$160,000 including land

- Thrivent Faith Build
 - o 14th year of partnership with Thrivent Financial
 - o Thrivent donates 50% cost of home/remaining 50% to come from local churches
 - o Volunteer groups from local Christian churches (all denominations)

- *Lutherans, Catholics, Methodists, and other Mainline Protestants have been consistent partners*

Interfaith Build for Unity Discussion

- Goal of bringing unity into the community through a Habitat Home Build
 - Have some donations/donors already for this Interfaith for Unity Build
 - Vision is for the faith communities to be active in building a habitat house
- Micah's View Development
 - The Interfaith Build will be a part of the Micah's View Development in Fountain
 - Micah's View is named after a cadet candidate who was actively involved as a volunteer for Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity
 - 3 houses included at Micah's View-is it possible for all 3 houses to be interfaith build houses?
 - Micah's View development will most likely be staggered some
 - PPHFH staff will have a definitive answer for this at the March meeting
 - Opening of Sunday slots for build days may be useful-Sabbath is Friday night to Saturday night
 - Opening of other slots throughout the week may be beneficial
 - Goal would be to rotate faith groups, so you wouldn't be working with the same group every build day
 - Could break this up into 5 from one faith community and 5 from another
 - Could even break this up into 3, 3, and 3
 - Time together during the lunch hour of build days would be a way to build community and unity
 - Insurance for the Builds?
 - All volunteers go through safety instruction on site and sign a waiver
- Interfaith Build for Unity Name
 - What should the build be called? Stick with Interfaith Build for Unity?
 - Possibility of changing to Build for Unity or Unity Build?
 - The benefit of this would be possibly joining college democrats/republicans, law enforcement groups/social activists etc.)
 - Decision made to stay with the "Interfaith Build for Unity" name
 - There is a lot of power in this, and an opportunity to lift up
 - Interfaith is something lacking in the Colorado Springs community
 - This sends a crucial message-that we are doing interfaith projects in the city

Tentative Dates and Information

- Ground Blessing and Dedication
 - All habitat homes have a ground blessing and a dedication-any interest in additional events?
 - Thrivent includes breakfasts etc., where a call to action is made, gearing up for preparation of volunteers
 - Idea of holding a family BBQ for all churches/schools-a way for families to be involved
 - Idea of bringing different herbs, this is a unique way that kinds can be involved in the project also

- Point was made that we would not want to oversaturate the community with invites and take away from the importance of the ground blessing
- If we the Interfaith for Unity Build is one house- July 26th at 3 or 4 pm may be a good date for the ground blessing, Sunday afternoons are a good time in general
- The ground blessing for the first Micah's View house may be in May-so this would move dates up a bit
- Instead of 3 different ground blessings, maybe an entire kickoff event for the whole development
- For a previous faith build-2x4's were brought to churches, everyone wrote their names, blessings, words of encouragement, etc.
 - Could we do this again with 2x4's from the construction site?

What's needed from the Committee? (To be continued in future meetings)

- Brainstorming, dreaming, and planning
- Advocacy
- Event Planning (Kick-off event? Ground Blessing and Home Dedication)
 - May be good to break off into sub-committees for certain tasks such as food
- Volunteer Recruitment and Outreach to New Partners
 - *Examples:*
 - *African-American Churches (AME, Missionary Baptist, etc.)*
 - *Asian-American Churches (Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, etc.)*
 - *Atheist/Agnostic/Humanist Organizations*
 - *Eastern Orthodox (Holy Theophany)*
 - *GuruGhar (Sikh)*
 - *Hindu Community*
 - *Islamic Society of Colorado Springs*
 - *Latter Day Saints*
 - *Spanish Churches*
 - *Unitarian Universalists, and more...*

Other Business

- Sunday Afternoon Dialogue-All are welcome!
 - 2-4pm at Library21C
 - Based around the idea that religious traditions inform us on how we go about engaging in difficult and controversial conversations

Adjournment at 10:00am.

Date of next meeting: Thursday, March 26th at the Air Force Academy from 9:00 to 10:00am.

- 5134 Cathedral Drive Suite 100, USAF Academy, CO 80840
- *Those who would like to tour the chapel facility (quick walk-through) and have a continental breakfast can meet at the chapel at 8:30am.*
- The meeting will begin promptly at 9:00am in the Roden Room which has been reserved for us.