

Faith Relations Committee Minutes
January 23, 2020, 12:00 – 1:00pm
PPHFH Conference Room

Committee Members

Rob Abraham, Y360
Jeff Ader, *President, Temple Beit Torah*
Lane Campbell, *Major, Chaplain, USAFA*
Jeff Mawhirter, *Sunrise United Methodist*
Iah Pillsbury, *Rabbi, Temple Beit Torah*
Eric Stolp, *Thrivent Financial*
Barb Traecy, *PPHFH Board Member*

Guests/Staff

Dustin Alarid, *FIA Program Manager*
Kris Medina, *Executive Director/CEO*
Jan Plimpton, *Development Contractor*
Iain Probert, *Director of Development*

Opening

Rabbi Pillsbury opened the meeting at 12:05pm with prayer.

Guest Introductions

Committee members and staff members were introduced.

PPHFH Programs Overview

Mr. Alarid provided a brief overview of PPHFH programs in order to ensure everybody shares the same context and understanding:

- PPHFH Established in 1986, non-profit, affordable housing program
 - o *Avg. 8 homes per year*
- Faith-based, ecumenical Christian organization
 - o "Unapologetically Christian, radically inclusive"
 - o Serve and partner with people of all backgrounds/faiths
 - o Strict no proselytizing policy
- 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

Faith in Action Program Overview

- Officially established in July 2019
- Made possible by Federal Capacity Building Grant
- 3yr grant to fund salary of employee; must fulfill Strategic Plan: including facilitation/growth of the *Thrivent Faith Build, Global Village (Intl. Development), Interfaith Build*, and more
- Being Federally Funded, FIA Manager cannot solicit donations/fundraise

- Thrivent Faith Build
 - 14th year of partnership with Thrivent Financial
 - Thrivent donates 50% cost of home/remaining 50% to come from local churches
 - Volunteer groups from local Christian churches (all denominations)
 - *Lutherans, Catholics, Methodists, and other Mainline Protestants have been consistent partners*
- International Development
 - 10% of all undesignated funds 'tithed' to Habitat programs in developing countries
 - *Habitat Nepal*
 - *Côte d'Ivoire Habitat*
 - *Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Fund*
 - Global Village Trips – volunteering opportunities abroad on Habitat projects
 - *October 2020: Paraguay Trip, led by Eric Stolp*
 - *October 2020: Nepal Trip, led by Dustin Alarid*

Introduction to the Interfaith Build for Unity

- Goal of bringing unity into the community through a Habitat Home Build
 - Especially important during this divisive election year
 - Meaningful for participants, but also symbolic to entire community
- Bookended by Ground Blessing (August?) and Home Dedication (Spring 2021?)
 - Prayer and speeches by Interfaith leaders, Habitat Staff and BOD
 - Introduction of Homeowners
 - Symbolic Tradition includes ground breaking and ribbon cutting
 - Special performances? (Spoken Word Poetry? Choir? Dove release?)
- Bi-weekly volunteer days?
 - Possibly: 2 different groups, 5 from each, volunteering together
 - Work day options: Thursday- Saturday (Sunday option?) (Regulars fill in gaps)
 - 8:30 to 4:30 (with half day option if necessary)
 - Sign-ups facilitated by our online volunteer program
 - Group lunches, cultural dishes, good way to build relationships on site
- Funding
 - Pilot year funding will come from Fund for Humanity (ReStore/Mortgages)
 - Supplemental funds welcome and encouraged (but not deal breaker)
 - Goal is self-sustainability for future builds (donations by faith groups, individual donors, grants, foundations, etc.)
- Kick-Off Event(s)?

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)
- 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*
- *Buddhist Communities (Thai, Tibetan, Zen, etc.)*
- *Chaplains (Army, Air Force, Colorado College, Fire, Police, UCCS, etc.)*
- *Congregationalist / United Church of Christ*
- *Eastern Orthodox (Holy Theophany)*
- *GuruGhar (Sikh)*
- *Hindu Community*
- *Islamic Society of Colorado Springs*
- *Latter Day Saints*
- *Spanish Churches*
- *Temple Shalom*
- *Unitarian Universalists, and more...*

Brainstorming Session

- Mr. Ader recommended that there be an electronic promotional document or marketing materials to present to faith organizations.
- Rabbi Pillsbury suggested that there be an element of cross-cultural/interfaith learning and dialogue incorporated into the programs.
 - Mr. Alarid suggested that build-site lunch breaks may be a good venue for this.
- Mr. Stolp believes that groups may be interested in “sponsorships” not just for money or marketing purposes, but to be promoted as a group that promotes the cause of unity within the community.

Other Business

- Meeting Schedule
 - The committee agreed to change the meeting schedule to 9am to 10am on the fourth Thursday of the month.
 - It was suggested that the venue change month-to-month.
 - Rabbi Pillsbury and Mr. Ader offered to host the next meeting at Temple Beit Torah.

Adjournment at 1:03pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday, February 27th at Temple Beit Torah from 9:00 to 10:00am.