

Faith Relations Committee Minutes

November 18, 2021

12:00– 12:45pm (Zoom Video Conference)

Committee Members in Attendance

Barb Treacy, St Francis of Assisi
Dan Pitts, Grace & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Eric Stolp, Thrivent Financial/PPFH Board Member
Jeff Mawhirter, Sunrise United Methodist
Kobi Chumash, Colorado College
Pastor Paula Stecker- Christ the King Lutheran
Pauli Hubbard, First Congregational Church
Feda Jodeh, Islamic Society of Colorado Springs
Renee Reif, Humanists & Freethinkers

Guests/Staff in Attendance

Chloe Henry, FIA Program Manager
Iain Probert, Director of Strategic Partnerships
Sarah Buchen, Volunteer Manager

12:00am Welcome

- Meeting began at 12:00pm with Committee Chair Eric greeting meeting attendees and providing a brief overview of the meeting agenda
- Eric shared a poem written by a Habitat Homeowner Entitled "Because of This House" to start the meeting <https://www.habitat.org/stories/because-house-poetry>

Approval of minutes from October 2021 Committee Meeting

- Meeting minutes were approved from October 2021 committee meeting.
- Board members to send any corrections to meeting minutes to Chloe
chloe@pikespeakhabitat.org

Status of IBU House & Volunteer Build Schedule Update for Jan/Feb

- Over this past weekend, some of the members of the committee were able to work on blue boarding the IBU house and some outside insulation during the committee build day.
- Habitat staff will shortly be pivoting to working on the next stage of the house (siding).
- **Additional IBU build day slots are still available for committee members to sign up their groups to attend for January & February of 2022. We have the following days open:**
 - Friday Jan 8th, Jan 14th, Sat Jan 22nd, Friday Feb 4th, Sat Feb 5th Sat Feb 26th
- **Please let Chloe know if you would like to register a group or sign up on the "2022 Interfaith Build for Unity Schedule" document which can be found at the link below as well as in the Google Drive Shared Folder:**
 - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12j_GDwprD1KG_GU01e1m--3eXi6r1wV5/edit#gid=716010567
 - Google Drive Shared Folder:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ozykzQoZ8A7i2SiYc5ZdbrKFSYYqNxcM>
- **We will be opening these sign ups to additional faith communities who are interested in participating in the IBU build after Thanksgiving, so if you are interested, please sign up as soon as possible.**

Debrief of Committee Build Day on Construction Site

- We had 6 committee members on the construction site for our first committee build day. The group was able to help with blue boarding for the IBU house and other projects.
- **Photos from the event can be found in the google shared drive in the “IBU Photos” folder.**
 - Eric & Chloe told the committee to please use these photos as committee members see fit to share with your congregation, gather interest.
 - If you were unable to attend the build day but would like to sign the house or have something written on your behalf by Habitat staff, please email Chloe to set up a time to come to the construction site or make arrangements to have your words written on the house. Chloe shared that for those that have not signed the house yet, once committee members sign, a photo of their words will also be uploaded to the shared google drive.
- Takeaways from those that attended the committee build day:
 - Jeff Mawhirter shared that he thought that the day was a great way to have less structured time together.
 - Eric Stolp thanked Iain for bringing coffee to the group. He also shared that he thought that having individuals bring their own lunch and share lunch time together went well and was a great time.

Overview of UN’s Interfaith Harmony Week & Brainstorming

- Chloe shared with the committee that in 2010 the United Nations passed a resolution declaring the first week of February as World Interfaith Harmony week to encourage mutual understanding, interreligious dialogue, and respect for differing beliefs.
 - Helpful link for context: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/interfaith-harmony-week>
 - Link to 2010 Resolution: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/65/5>
- **Chloe & the Habitat staff are working on drafting a declaration that the committee could use encourage groups and individuals to sign onto that includes the language from the 2010 UN resolution to show unity and gain support for the IBU project. After being completed the committee would work on sharing the declaration with their communities to have others consider signing the document. Once the draft is finalized, the declaration will be shown to the committee for their thoughts. Chloe shared that the hope is that this declaration will show unity, and can be used during the home dedication event to showcase unity around the IBU build and the ideals in the statement.**
- The committee discussed whether or not they would like to host some sort of event or ceremony that week and what potential ideas might be. Eric asked group if they thought an event sounded like a good idea and group confirmed via head nods.
- Ideas to Celebrate World Interfaith Harmony Week from Committee
 - Pauli Hubbard asked what the potential ideas are from the Habitat staff regarding this event.
 - Chloe Henry shared that some potential ideas that staff have considered include having Model UN students read the UN Resolution, and then have someone speak about the IBU build and its goals. She shared that the hope is for it to be an event that shows unity, gets people involved with the IBU and is something

that we could invite the media to, but we are open to the ideas and suggestions of the committee.

- Pastor Paula shared that Pikes Peak Interfaith Coalition could be an ideal group to consider for the declaration. The group focuses dialogue in groups and could be a potential group to partner with to pull in more people to have interreligious dialogue
 - Pastor Paula also mentioned that Prince of Peace church building is close to their site, but they often try to meet in non-church buildings like libraries. Pastor Paula mentioned that we could provide for some dialogue among people during the event and then perhaps offer a tour of the habitat neighborhood
- Fedra Jodeh shared that she thinks it's a fabulous idea and that partnering could allow us to get quite a crowd. Fedra also shared that we would need location close by the construction site for a tour, or that we could do two separate days as well. Fedra shared that Pikes Peak Interfaith Coalition could have dialogue on this topic. She also shared that we could bring in Model UN students, perhaps 2 and have them talk about what they are doing, if this is a focus they are working on.
- Barb Treacy asked if there is going to be interfaith gathering during that timeframe for Pikes Peak Interfaith Coalition?
- Fedra Jodeh shared that they are currently working on 2022 lineup. She was not sure if they are going to start off with series or not but stated that they can make it work either way
- Barb Treacy shared that we could have short video at the event and that we could also show the video to the City Council.
- Fedra Jodeh stated that another group we should consider is students of international charter. She also stated that the Pikes Peak Interfaith Coalition will not do anything over MLK weekend.
- Jeff Mawhirter asked if Chloe could share the link to the UN resolution. Chloe subsequently shared the link in the zoom chatbot.
- Eric Stolp shared that this could be time for the future Homeowner to speak as well.
- Fedra shared that she likes the idea of idea of video.
- Pauli Hubbard asked if Habitat staff have taken pictures of the IBU house changing.
- Sarah Buchen responded by saying that she has tried to take photos of the house. She said noticing changes can be difficult until siding is completely but she has tried to take many.
- Pastor Paula shared that it is important that there is an element of sharing about the messaging of Habitat and what the organization does for people present who aren't aware.
- Eric Stolp told the committee that we will continue to brainstorm and shared that this event will lead into another huge milestone of dedicating the house.

Touching Base on Needed Engagement/Outreach Resources

- **Eric shared that Chloe will be building a committee outreach resources folder for committee members that can be used when inviting others to participate.** Eric asked the committee to share what type of resources would be helpful when reaching out to groups:

- Pauli Hubbard shared that she often ends up making lots of individual phone calls. She shared that a general video that could be shown in front of a congregation would be helpful and potentially better than other strategies we have tried. She said that it would be great to figure out how to be able to collect data of interested individuals right there since people do not always click links to sign up later on.
 - Sarah shared that Habitat does have sign in tablets so if Habitat staff came to speak to the congregation, they could have people sign up there.
- Dan Pitts shared that something that has lowered barriers for him directing people to the website or emailing them the sign-up link to make it easier.
- Renee Reif shared that she uses tool use Meetup.com which allows a person using it to RSVP to different events. She shared that the platform is essentially a calendar where people join a group and RSVP to different events and allows users to add links to documents so people can sign online.
 - Sara Buchen shared that we still need individuals to take care of their registration and liability waiver. People can do this on the construction site but it adds a little extra wait time on site in the mornings.
- Eric mentioned that if Renee wouldn't mind helping figure out processes that would be super helpful. Renee said yes and also shared that one of the nice things about the platform is that you can also create search terms when you create a profile and users will periodically receive suggested events based on their keyword search so it is a good way to get additional people involved. Renee shared that the platform can also be used to send updated or reminders to those who have RSVP'd.
- Eric shared that an additional way to lower barriers could be to gather a signup sheet with phone numbers and then send those that signed up texts.

Announcements & Events

- **Next Meeting**
 - **Next meeting: Thursday December 16th 12:00pm-12:45pm via zoom**
 - **Eric also shared that as a committee we should also begin thinking about who else we would like to invite to join the committee.**

12:46 Meeting Adjourned by Eric Stolp

Committee Member Action Items

- Sign up groups for additional IBU build days (link in Google Drive shared folder) or email Chloe
- Send additions/edits via email to Chloe for Interfaith Holiday Calendar
- Send UN Interfaith Harmony Week Ideas to Chloe via email
- Volunteer Recruitment & Outreach to New Partners