

Faith Relations Committee Minutes

January 20th, 2022

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

Committee Members in Attendance

Feda Jodeh, Islamic Society of Colorado Springs

Jeff Ader, Temple Beit Torah

Jeff Mawhirter, Sunrise United Methodist

Pastor Paula Stecker, Christ the King Lutheran Church

Peter Hilts, School District 49 & Habitat Board of Directors

Guests/Staff in Attendance

Chloe Henry, FIA Program Manager

Emma Price, Donor Relations Specialist

Iain Probert, Director of Strategic Partnerships

Karla Probert, Executive Assistant to the CEO

Sarah Buchen, Volunteer Manager

12:00am Welcome

- Meeting began at 12:02pm with Chloe greeting attendees & guests and providing a brief overview of the meeting agenda since Eric Stolp, Faith Relations Committee Chair was unable to attend the meeting.
- Chloe shared a video highlighting an interfaith prayer in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Entitled: "2021 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Interfaith Celebration: Interfaith Prayer." The video can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evYcGL2Js4>

Approval of minutes from December 2021 Committee Meeting

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

Committee Changes

- Chloe shared that Dave Resch has stepped down for the time being from his role on the committee in light of personal issues that have arisen in the past couple of months, as well as his current standing commitments.
- Additionally, Rene Reif has also expressed that she will be stepping down currently from her role, and Chloe is currently working with her group to set up a time to speak to the Humanist group and get them volunteering with Habitat in a wide variety of ways.
- Pikes Peak Habitat is deeply appreciative of both their willingness to serve on our committee, and of all the hard work, dedication, and insight that they brought to our group.
- Peter Hilts will be joining the Faith Relations Committee, starting immediately.

Overview of Interfaith Dialogue Event: Interfaith Harmony Week

- The date and time have been solidified for our interfaith dialogue event in celebration of the 2022 World interfaith Harmony Week Event for **Sunday, Feb 6th at 3pm at Jenkins Middle School: 6410 Austin Bluffs Pkwy, Colorado Springs, CO 80923.**
- Committee members can share this information as they see fit and invite others.
- **The success of this event will be from us largely reaching out to other groups. Please RSVP if you are able to attend to emma@pikespeakhabitat.org or to Chloe directly.**
- Chloe reminded the group that the overarching goals of this event will be to:
 - 1. Provide a brief background on UN Interfaith Harmony Week. During this short section of the event, the Public Declaration created to celebrate World Interfaith Harmony Week will also be highlighted
 - 2. Host an Interfaith Dialogue on Affordable Housing with the Pikes Peak Interfaith Coalition. Chloe shared that she has been working in collaboration with the Pikes Peak Interfaith Coalition through Pastor Paula & Fedra and that Kris Lewis, ED/CEO of Pikes Peak Habitat is willing to give a short introduction about the state of housing affordability in El Paso County before the interfaith dialogue conversations.
 - Attendees will be seated at tables to have mediated conversations for a portion of the event around the topic of housing affordability locally from an interfaith perspective.
 - 3. Highlight the IBU Project briefly. Chloe shared that she is working on solidifying if our current IBU family can speak briefly during the event or provide a written letter that can be read.
- Chloe shared that in relation to marketing & outreach for event there will be:
 - Postcard invitations to be sent via mail to IBU contacts. Chloe told committee members that if they have someone they recommend sending a mailed invitation to please pass that along to her via email.
 - Jeff Mawhirter suggested streaming the event
 - E-invitations will also be sent next week.

Update on Timeline for IBU #2

- Chloe shared that the results of the doodle poll showed that most committee members voted to start the IBU #2 immediately.
- After connecting with staff and reviewing the build schedule, the committee will look to finish off the first IBU project tentatively at the end of March, and then will look to start volunteer opportunities shortly after for the second IBU home
- Chloe shared that our second IBU partner family has been confirmed. Chloe will also be working on setting up a time in the future when the committee can hear the story of our new future homeowner Anna.
- Anna and her family will be participating in the joint ground blessing this Saturday January 22nd at 10:00am along with four other future homeowner families. If committee members can attend, Chloe will be happy to introduce them to Anna's family.
- While she will be participating in this group cohort style ground blessing ceremony with our other homeowners, as a committee we can decide if we would like to celebrate Anna and her family in a unique way, following the completion of our home dedication for Ms. Andino in March.

Brainstorming for IBU #1 Home Dedication

- Chloe shared that the tentative date (weather permitting) for the first IBU home dedication will be *tentatively* on Sunday March 27th in the afternoon to accommodate as many religious traditions and holy days as possible
- Chloe provided a brief overview of normal dedication proceedings & invited committee members to attend our home dedication for our Thrivent Faith Build if desired to see an example on January 22nd at 11:00am.
- When Chloe asked the committee how they would like to celebrate and incorporate different traditions & beliefs in the ceremony they shared that:
 - Feda suggested that several faith traditions offer their own prayers
 - Iain suggested that in addition to The Bible, we provide the homeowner with other holy texts that represent the faith traditions that worked on the build.
- Chloe shared that the Native American Women's Association offered to participate in the dedication event if we would like by dancing during the event and by being willing to offer a ground blessing/land acknowledgement.
 - The committee is in favor of this
- Iain predicted that this Home Dedication will likely take an hour

Overview of Public Declaration Outreach Resources for Committee

- Chloe provided an overview of new resources for committee members to use to share public declaration widely. These resources will also be sent out via email along with the meeting minutes.

Viewing of Interfaith Harmony Week Website

- Chloe had Emma share her screen to show the committee the mock-up of website for interfaith harmony week. Chloe explained that this website can be visited daily January 1st-7th to see a unique way to engage with this initiative.

Announcements/Overview of Action Items

- **Next meeting: Thurs. February 17, 2022, 12:00pm-12:45pm via zoom**
- Chloe reviewed action items for committee members (listed below)

Meeting adjourned at 12:45pm by Chloe

Committee Member Action Items

- **Ask people to consider signing the Interfaith Harmony Week Declaration**
 - **Public Declaration Link to Share: <https://forms.gle/rfFr9oaoNngwa85FA>**
- **Invite individuals to UN harmony week event Sun Feb 6th at 3pm (goal of 3+ for each committee member)**
- **Volunteer Recruitment & Outreach to New Partners**

Important Dates

- **Joint Ground Blessing Ceremonies**

- Saturday January 22nd 10:00am-10:45am
- World Interfaith Harmony Week
 - January 1st-7th
- “Building as One: An Interfaith Dialogue Event Surrounding Affordable Housing in Celebration of the 2022 UNs’ World Interfaith Harmony Week”
 - Sunday, Feb 6th at 3pm at Jenkins Middle School: 6410 Austin Bluffs Pkwy, Colorado Springs, CO 80923
- **Tentative IBU #1 Home Dedication**
 - Sunday March 27th in the afternoon *exact time in the afternoon TBD