

Faith Relations Committee Minutes

December 16, 2021

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

Committee Members in Attendance

Eric Stolp, Thrivent Financial/PPFH Board Member & Committee Chair

Jeff Ader, Temple Beit Torah

Pastor Paula Stecker- Christ the King Lutheran

Renee Reif, Humanists & Freethinkers

Guests/Staff in Attendance

Chaplain Major Kevin Hostettler

Chloe Henry, FIA Program Manager

Iain Probert, Director of Strategic Partnerships

Karla Probert, Executive Assistant to the Ed/CEO

Sarah Buchen, Volunteer Manager

12:00am Welcome

- Meeting began at 12:00pm with Committee Chair Eric greeting attendees & guests and providing a brief overview of the meeting agenda
- Chloe attempted to share a video highlighting pictures of Habitat homes drawn by the children of Habitat Homeowners, but due to technical difficulties, the video was not able to be shown. The video can be found here: <https://www.habitat.org/multimedia/annual-report-2021/>

Approval of minutes from November 2021 Committee Meeting

- Meeting minutes were approved from November 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

- Additional groups to sign up for new IBU group slots in January and February. We have the following days open: Friday Jan 14th, 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_GUo1e1m--3eXi6r1wV5/edit#gid=716010567
 - Google Drive Shared Folder:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ozykzQoZ8A7i2SiYc5ZdbrKFSYYqNxcM>
- Sign up deadline for Sat. Jan 8th Dec 21

Committee Review of Declaration Language for UN’s Interfaith Harmony Week

- Purpose of declaration: to show solidarity/support around the concepts of mutual respect, unity & interfaith dialogue in El Paso County. Most of the language of the declaration is from the 2010 UN declaration itself- shown in quotations.
- The declaration was shared with committee members prior to the meeting for their review. When Chloe asked committee members if there was any language they would like to see changed or added to the declaration:
 - Jeff Ader shared that the declaration looks good. He asked if the declaration speaks to the recipients of homes being from diverse faith backgrounds and beliefs and cultures and no faiths. This language will be added to the declaration.
- Additional languages changes to be sent to Chloe via email by the end of the day on 12/16.
- Chloe shared that the declaration will be used in two ways. One copy of the declaration will be used as an opportunity for committee members only to physically sign onto if they are willing. Chloe will be contacting committee members individually to get their wet signature for this copy in the coming weeks. This copy will be created into a poster for the interfaith dialogue event on Sunday Feb 6, 2022.
- The other “Public” Declaration, created in a google forms document, will allow anyone who is interested to sign onto the declaration online **Link here:** <https://forms.gle/rfFr9oaoNngwa85FA>
 - Committee members received a link to this declaration as well prior to the meeting for review. Any comments or recommended changes should be sent via email to Chloe.
- Committee members can share Public Declaration link with others. No private contact information will be shared publicly and email addresses will not be used for future purposes/solicitations. To have individuals sign the document, simply pass along the link to them via email/text etc., have them add their name, and click submit.
- When asked about any comments the committee have:
 - Jeff Ader shared that it would be great to pass along to the Interfaith Coalition to sign.
- **Once the committee receives the finalized language from Chloe via email Committee Members are tasked with sharing the link with others they would like to have consider signing onto the declaration.** Chloe asked committee members to please be thinking about what individuals, groups, organizations, and faith communities they would like to share the declaration with. Our committee goal will be to get 100 signatories.
 - A copy of the declaration will be at the ReStore South location for individuals to sign if they would like while shopping.
- Eric Stolp asked if we could have volunteers on the construction site consider signing. Chloe will connect with Sarah to have this available on the construction site.
- Renee Reif shared that there are a lot of belief systems that do not use the word faith and so if the committee is focused on inclusion, she feels that we should be using terminology that is more inclusive since other groups including Native Americans, Pagans, and Humanists would not use that terminology. She stated that she knew the intention of the terms, but shared that she thinks a lot of diversity is lost with that term. She stated that she would be happy to brainstorm with someone for alternative terms
 - Chloe shared that she would be happy to meet with Renee to brainstorm some alternative terminology.

Overview of Interfaith Harmony Week & Events

- The goals for this week overall will be to spread news about our IBU build, to engage on global scale, and show solidarity in diverse groups working together from different religious traditions and belief systems.
- On Friday, Feb. 4th and Sat, Feb. 5th we have IBU volunteer build days that still have volunteer slots available. During Interfaith Harmony Week Habitat will also be sharing information related to interfaith Harmony week on social media with a seven-day social media campaign with action items for individuals to participate in on a daily basis. Chloe shared that Habitat is in the process of building a website for the weeklong event that committee members can share with others.
- During last meeting some committee members mentioned potentially having tour of Habitat site. After connecting with staff about feasibility, we will not host this tour, but the committee decided that instead we will encourage individuals to attend the home dedication in March for the IBU project and tour the house then.
- Interfaith Dialogue Event on Sunday Feb 6th in the afternoon
 - Chloe has taken the feedback from the committee's last meeting to craft a potential outline for the event in partnership with the Pikes Peak Interfaith Coalition. The potential event has 3 parts: Part 1: Providing a background on UN Interfaith Harmony Week & highlighting the public declaration 2. Hosting an Interfaith Dialogue on Affordable Housing for attendees 3. Highlighting the IBU Project with future IBU homeowner remarks
- When the committee was asked their thoughts about the event outline Jeff Ader said the outline was powerful.
- Pastor Paula asked about the status of the event venue. Chloe shared that she has been in contact with Library 21, District 11, and the Colorado Springs School. We have some leads within District 11 and those are being finalized.
- When the committee was asked for potential additional venues:
 - Jeff Ader shared that he has access to the Black Forest Community Club. The main room would fit 200 individuals and has a digital sound system. He said this space may be available.
 - Renee Reif shared All Souls Unitarian have a good-sized space in their main room.
 - Eric Stolp shared that the Peel House at First Lutheran Church is a newly renovated space downtown that is available for community events.
 - Renee Reif also shared that the Methodist Church downtown has a huge auditorium downtown that is a great space.
- Chloe shared that the Prince who brought forward the idea for the UN week to the United Nations has created an official global competition for UN World Interfaith Harmony Week. Competition Site Link: <https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/event-calendar/>. The committee expressed an interest having Habitat staff send in an entry for the competition for our event to engage on an international scale.

Overview of New Engagement/Outreach Resources for Committee

- Eric Stolp introduced Chaplain Hostettler to the committee who is observing today's meeting.
- Chloe provided an overview of new outreach resources for committee (videos, studies, photos, helpful websites, etc. that have been created based on the needs committee members expressed. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ozykzQoZ8A7i2SiYc5ZdbrKFSYYqNxcM>.

- Eric shared that there have been some great Pikes Peak Habitat social media posts that can be shared to get others involved.

Timeline for 2nd IBU Build

- **Based on our current build schedule, we can either have a ground blessing for our 2nd IBU home on Jan 22, 2022, which would mean that we would have two IBU builds going on concurrently through March, or we would finish up with the first IBU house in March and look to break ground on the next build in later 2022 or Jan 2023.**
- When asked about the committee members preference for the timeline of our second IBU build:
 - Jeff Ader asked Chloe what her experience is with consistently getting groups involved with the IBU build. Chloe shared that it has been going well thanks to the momentum created by Dustin. We also have some new additional groups interested in getting involved in the future, but the winter months are harder. She said she thinks it's doable but wanted to get feedback from the committee members as to how their groups & volunteers are feeling.
 - Eric Stolp shared that in the case of the Thrivent Faith build momentum was easier with consistency instead of a stop/start method.
 - Jeff Ader senses a dwindling enthusiasm as we go through COVID related to all the requests from different organizations. He shared that the same 10% of individuals tend to do everything and wanted to voice that concern.
 - Renee Reif said she has some freethought groups that are meeting and would like someone to come speak to her group about opportunities after the holidays. Chloe said she is willing to speak to the group and will connect with Renee off line to schedule.
 - Pastor Paula shared that it is counterintuitive to have the UN event and get people excited without then having opportunities for individuals to engage with the project sooner. Pastor Paula Stecker also asked about the purpose of having 5 ground breakings in winter.
 - Iain Probert shared that Habitat does have houses in all sorts of stages which allows the construction team to operate year around. Additionally, he shared that because of funding and the generous land donation we received, Habitat's Board of Directors agreed to pull five permits per year to keep in the spirit of the land donation.
 - **Eric Stolp thanked everyone for their comments and asked additional comments to go to Chloe via email. Chloe will follow up with a Doodle Poll for the committee to cast their vote.**

Announcements/Overview of Action Items

- **Eric Stolp discussed the next meeting date:**
 - **Next Meeting: Thurs. January 20, 2022, 12:00pm-12:45pm via zoom**
 - Topics: March dedication & final details for UN event/tasks
- Meeting adjourned at 12:57pm by Committee Chair Eric Stolp