

Faith Relations Committee Minutes

February 17th, 2021

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

Committee Members in Attendance

Barb Treacy, St Francis of Assisi

Chaplain Major Kevin Hostettler

Dan Pitts, Grace & St. Stephens Episcopal Church

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

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 D49/PPFH Board Member

Rabbi Iah Pillsbury, Temple Beit Torah

Guests/Staff in Attendance

Chloe Henry, FIA Program Manager

Ed Docampo, Property Shoppe LLC

Emma Price, Donor Relations Specialist

Iain Probert, Director of Strategic Partnerships

Sarah Buchen, Volunteer Manager

12:00am Welcome

- Meeting began at 12:01pm with Committee Chair Eric greeting attendees & guests and providing a brief overview of the meeting agenda
- Eric shared “Interfaith Harmony Week: Coexistence & Common Citizenship Video.” The video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/dbwkG6TXANs>
- Eric introduced Chaplain Major Kevin Hostettler as a new member to the faith relations committee.

Approval of minutes from November 2021 Committee Meeting

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

Debrief of Interfaith Harmony Week Interfaith Dialogue Event

- Chloe provided an update related to Interfaith Harmony Week Initiative.
 - Habitat staff created an interactive webpage with daily ways for individuals to participate in this global initiative. From a marketing perspective, we posted throughout the week to highlight various aspects of the initiative and sent out a special newsletter

- For the interfaith dialogue event in partnership with the Pikes Peak Interfaith Coalition:
 - 32 in person attendees and 16 zoom participants
 - Faith traditions/groups represented included: Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity, and the Native American Women's Association.
 - During the event we were able to share about the IBU project, hear from our future IBU#2 Homeowner Anna, have Kris Lewis from Habitat speak to the state of affordable housing and then participate in interfaith dialogue at tables.
 - Multiple individuals and groups expressed a desire to participate in the IBU project after the conclusion of the event, so we are excited to have them join us for the IBU#2.
- Committee Debrief
 - Eric Stolp asked the committee to weigh in with their reflections on the event:
 - 1. **Overall reactions to Interfaith Dialogue Event**
 - Jeff Ader shared that he thought that the overall effect was wonderful. He shared about some of the technological glitches he had as a zoom participant similar to what they experience at their Temple and with the Pikes Peak Interfaith Coalition. He also thinks we needed significantly more time in the dialogue setting and mentioned that Jeff Mawhirter the facilitator in his zoom room did a great job leading dialogue. He also mentioned that the partnering between Habitat and the Interfaith Coalition is exciting and thinks we should continue to foster that.
 - Dan Pitts agreed with Jeff Ader's comments
 - To wrap up this initiative in March 2022 Chloe will be sending in an official report to the International World Interfaith Harmony Week Competition for our interfaith dialogue event. We will hear back in late March. Thank you emails will also be sent to all attendees.

12:15pm Update on timeline for IBU #2 & Volunteer dates

- The Habitat staff is still finalizing the next round of volunteer dates for our second IBU build, and we will get back to you as soon as this schedule is finalized with dates for 2022

12:20pm Continued Brainstorming for IBU #1 Home Dedication

- The confirmed date for the home dedication of the first IBU home is **Sunday March 27th at 3:00pm. If you are unable to attend as a committee member, please let Chloe know via email.**
- Chloe walked committee members through a sample service leaflet to give committee members a sense of what happens at a home dedication including the timeline for the event (1 hour ceremony). The Native American Womens Association has also agreed to do a tradition Dance.
- **The committee then discussed what custom elements we would like to add to the ceremony as a committee for the IBU house:**
 - Jeff Mawhirter said that potentially we should try to get the homeowner involved as soon as possible. He suggested that we could we put UN language early in the ceremony, and then during the presentation of the Hammer/Bible/Religious texts include our future homeowner in all of our different faith tradition prayers.
 - Chloe mentioned that we could also potentially have the Temple Beit Torah children/representatives from the Temple present the windchimes that the children made. Rabbi Pillsbury loved that idea and has the windchimes.

- Jeff Ader Want expressed that he thinks that it is important that we try to incorporate youth as much as possible to get a longer reach for the organization. He also suggested that we could reach out to local high schools to try to get honor society members involved with Habitat.
- Eric Stolp shared that moving forward to IBU#2 we can look into having some predesignated projects for kids to engage with. Eric shared that we can continue the ongoing conversation for youth for next year and beyond for constant touches to younger generation during IBU#2.
- **Barb Treacy suggested that we could have a children's choir participate. After asking the group if they had a connection with a youth choir, Eric asked committee members to please email Chloe with any choir connections.**
- Jeff Ader also shared that we should also continue to work with other housing partners to build a continuum of services. After this comment Jeff Mawhirter shared that his church is adopting a refugee family with the goal of getting them affordable housing etc. and he is happy to share about their path on the journey and more information on this as well if desired.
- Per Eric's request, Chloe will send out the service leaflet to the committee so they can read it over if desired.

12:35pm Marketing ideas for IBU#1 Home dedication

(5 min)

- In preparation for the first IBU Home dedication, Habitat will send out e-invitation to all active IBU groups & volunteers, highlight home dedication in *Faith in Action* Newsletter, and has a magazine ad for event in local magazine for March.
- Committee would like Chloe to send out print and virtual marketing materials to invite their groups (PDFs of posters, mock emails etc.)

12:40pm Discussion of Potential Interfaith Dialogue Question Packet for IBU Days

(2 min)

- When Chloe asked whether the committee would like intentional interfaith dialogue starter questions for lunch during IBU volunteer days or feel that these resources are not needed at the moment committee members shared:
 - Jeff Ader said we already have natural conversation from working side by side so that works well so it doesn't feel synthetic
 - Eric Stolp shared that perhaps we could create a pamphlet of some sort that could be handed out during volunteer days with interfaith dialogue questions, ideas to get youth involved and ways to stay engaged

Announcements/Overview of Action Items

- **Next meeting: Thurs. March 17, 2022, 12:00pm-12:45pm via zoom**
- Meeting adjourned at 12:46pm by Committee Chair Eric Stolp