

Faith Relations Committee Minutes

April 21st, 2021

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

Committee Members in Attendance

Eric Stolp, *Pikes Peak Habitat Board of Directors (Chair)*

Jeff Ader, *Temple Beit Torah*

Jeff Mawhirter, *Sunrise United Methodist Church*

Pastor Paula Stecker, *Christ the King Lutheran Church*

Rabbi Jay Sherwood, *Temple Shalom*

Guests/Staff in Attendance

Chloe Henry, *FIA Program Manager*

12:00pm Welcome

- Meeting began at 12:00pm with Chair Eric Stolp greeting attendees
- Eric Stolp played "[Religious Leaders Address Confluence of 3 Religious Holidays in One Weekend](#)" which showcases how three major holidays from different religious traditions/belief systems coincided right around the same time this month.
- If a committee member would like to learn more about the different holidays this month from different traditions, they can look at the additional resource here:
<https://www.aspeninstitute.org/blog-posts/celebrating-together-2022-spring-holidays/>

Approval of minutes from March 2022 Committee Meeting

- Meeting minutes were approved from March 2022 committee meeting
- Committee members to send any corrections to meeting minutes to Chloe
chloe@pikespeakhabitat.org

Update on UN Report from World Interfaith Harmony Week

- Copies of the report from the UN's 2022 World Interfaith Harmony Week Celebration & Interfaith Dialogue event have been printed & are ready to be passed out to committee members & IBU faith communities
 - Chloe will drop off printed copies to faith communities & organizations starting next week. If there is a time that would be convenient for Chloe to drop these reports off, please email her directly at Chloe@pikespeakhabitat.org.
- As an update, our committee did not win the global competition for the week-long initiative, but we are excited to participate next year, and are grateful to have been able to have so much engagement during our interfaith dialogue event. Information on this year's winners can be found here: <https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/winners-2022/>.

Update on timeline for IBU #2 & volunteer dates

- Chloe Henry reviewed the IBU#2 Volunteer signup sheet with committee members

- **All committee members should have received an email stating that IBU#2 Volunteer Dates are open, with directions on how to sign up. If you would like Chloe to forward this email again to you individually, please reach out to her individually at Chloe@pikespeakhabitat.org.**
- The sign-up sheet for IBU#2 can be found here: [IBU#2 Volunteer Group Sign Up Sheet \(2022-2023\).xlsx](#)
 - **Dates available April 2022-March 2023 for volunteer groups.**
 - **Please sign your faith group up as soon as possible to ensure that you receive the dates that you would like for this second IBU Build.**
 - After you sign up on this document, Chloe will send you a confirmation email, and Sarah Buchen our Volunteer Manager will send you the registration link, which you can use to send out to contacts from your faith group to get them signed up for your volunteer day.
- Eric Stolp asked how lunch is being handled currently based off COVID protocols etc. Chloe Henry shared that she is connecting group leaders via email prior to the volunteer date so that individual groups can decide what they are most comfortable with (ex: bringing individual sack lunches and sitting together, bringing a shared dessert for those that are comfortable etc.).

Debrief of IBU #1 Home Dedication

- **When asked their thoughts and reflections on the IBU home dedication, committee members shared that:**
 - Jeff Ader shared that he heard positive feedback regarding the event. He said that he thought it was important and helpful that young people were represented during the event including the group from religious school at the Temple to encourage younger participants to give back to the community.
 - Pastor Paula Stecker shared that she had heard that several people really enjoyed the round dance and thought that that was a pleasant surprise. She noted that the dance really touched people and also shared that she felt that there were a lot of gracious moments from sharing from different faith traditions.
 - Pastor Paula Stecker also mentioned that one thing to change or adapt for the future to improve related to how the Lord's prayer was presented and noted that it was not exactly comfortable as it was not offered in quite the same way as some of the other blessings shared by others, and mentioned that if it is essential for Habitat for all dedications then our committee should address how we package that well in a thoughtful manner so that section does seem too Christian heavy.
 - Jeff Mawhirter noted that perhaps we could have one leader present the Lords prayer themself and not make it responsive, or corporate in nature so it could be more in line with other blessings and prayers.
 - Chloe Henry asked the group if it felt that the transition from the Round Dance to the introductions were smooth or if we needed any more transitions. Committee members shared that it didn't seem clunky or that there were too many transitions.
- Please send any additional comments, ideas, or feedback regarding the IBU home dedication directly to Chloe via email at Chloe@pikespeakhabitat.org so we can continue to make this event as welcoming, inclusive, and as good as possible.
- A recap video of the home dedication will be shared with committee members once completed

- Media coverage of the IBU home dedication can be found here:
<https://www.fox21news.com/news/pikes-peak-habitat-for-humanity-celebrates-first-interfaith-build-for-unity/>

Goal setting & vision casting for IBU#2

- Eric Stolp led committee members in a discussion surrounding vision casting for the second IBU. Eric shared that he learned this week that the only Habitat affiliates nationwide that have done an IBU throughout the nation have only done two IBUs. One of Eric's hopes is that we will not only get to complete our second IBU, but will be intentional about having momentum moving forward to planning for and work towards an IBU#3 as well so that we would be the leading example in the country as an affiliate for an Interfaith Build for Unity.
- When Eric Stolp asked committee members "What are additional areas we would like to focus on during IBU#2?" committee members shared that:
 - Jeff Ader asked if groups from last year are still interested and what our return rate is. Chloe Henry shared that we have three new interested groups who said they would like to sign up, and that so far no groups from last year have said that they will not be able to participate this year.
 - Jeff Ader asked if we were currently working or reaching out to any catholic groups. Chloe Henry answered by sharing that St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church is already signed up for a IBU date and that the Catholic Young Adults from the Diocese of COS is also interested. Jeff also shared that it is important in marketing materials to talk about the concept of Faith in Action to allow people to put their beliefs out there and work in harmony.
 - Chloe Henry shared that when meeting with Rabbi Pillsbury in the past two weeks they brainstormed some potential ways to get youth involved in different events. Chloe shared that perhaps we could have one build day on the construction site of an interfaith youth group for those that are 16 plus and then another event focused on younger kids. Chloe shared that it would be helpful to know what age range of students different groups and congregations have.
 - Jeff Ader shared that with the younger kids we could simply offer a shorter time span with a different presentation method like a tour of the build site to show the different uses of different construction equipment as demonstrations and give awareness.
 - Pastor Paula Stecker mentioned that she is going to try to reach out to a nearby Lutheran Church that is close to the build site to see if they could potentially be a gathering space. She also mentioned that for print invitation materials for IBU events it could be fun to have kids design and decorate those.
 - Chloe Henry shared that one thing that other affiliates have done is have kids draw pictures of their home or what home means to them. She shared that we could have all the kids draw these sorts of drawings that then could be turned into marketing materials or invitations etc.
 - Eric Stolp shared that we could combine these ideas and have the kids build something like a birdhouse which would allow them to use some tools like sandpaper and then decorate them. From there, with the invitations they

created they could drop off their finished projects at congregations as a keepsake for the community.

- Jeff Ader mentioned to Eric that he thought that was a good idea.
- When Eric Stolp Asked the committee “What additional representation is needed on our committee and who else do we need to be intentional about inviting to the committee?” committee members noted:
 - Jeff Ader mentioned that it would be good to get additional representation from the Islamic Society if possible, and noted that the Pikes Peak Interfaith Coalition has just been working on establishing a relationship with the LDS church.
 - Jeff Mawhirter mentioned Buddhist representatives. Chloe Henry noted that we do have a new Buddhist group interested in IBU volunteer days and said that she is hopeful that they will want to join the committee in the future.
 - Pastor Paula Stecker mentioned trying to invite Ms. Andinos home church as well.
 - Chloe Henry asked the committee if they have any ties to the Sikh community locally. Committee members did not.
- When Eric Stolp asked the committee, “Are there additional types of events that would be useful?” committee members noted that:
 - Jeff Mawhirter mentioned that we could expand on our interfaith round table event and extend that to a youth version. Jeff noted that he can struggle with the five people from his congregation because for a group of that size he also needs larger sized events.
 - Eric Stolp mentioned that it is important moving forward to see what we can plan, see what we can piggyback off of or partner to do with others, and what we can lead ourselves.
 - Jeff Ader mentioned that he has a sense that volunteerism is way down in the country currently and so he hopes that with some restrictions being lifted or altered that there will hopefully be a renewed desire to volunteer.
- Eric Stolp mentioned to Chloe that this would be a good monthly action item to discuss these questions.

Update on Connecting with Interfaith Youth Core

- After the IBU home dedication, Chloe was approached by Jeff Pinzino from Interfaith America (Interfaith Youth Core) who had come across an article about the IBU dedication
- Jeff is seeking out emerging interfaith leaders nationwide and interesting interfaith projects to help support initiatives with resources, training, and potentially microgrants eventually
- Helpful interfaith resources from the organization can be found here: <https://ifyc.org/resources>

Announcements/Overview of Action Items

- Committee member action items & Group Updates
 - Jeff Ader shared that he has been a part of a taskforce in partnership with the COS Police Department and the City of COS to find a firm that would look at the use of force across society to look at equitable policing policies. The selected firm will be presenting

their research on Tuesday April 26th at 3:00pm at Stargazers Theater and all committee members are invited to attend. If you are interested in learning more about this event, please reach out to Jeff Ader via email directly.

- Eric Stolp shared that as an action item committee members should sign up faith groups for IBU#2
- **Next meeting Thursday May 19th via zoom**
 - Eric Stolp also mentioned that we most likely will also be taking July and December off as a committee to give committee members a break during the year. More information on this to come.

12:50pm Meeting Adjourned by Chair Eric Stolp