

Faith Relations Committee Minutes

May 19th, 2021

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

Committee Members in Attendance

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

Feda Jodeh, *Islamic Society of Colorado Springs*

Jeff Ader, *Temple Beit Torah*

Jeff Mawhirter, *Sunrise United Methodist Church*

Pastor Paula Stecker, *Christ the King Lutheran Church*

Peter Hilts, *Pikes Peak Habitat Board of Directors*

Guests/Staff in Attendance

Chloe Henry, *FIA Program Manager*

Iain Probert, *Director of Strategic Partnerships*

12:00pm Welcome

- Meeting began at 12:00pm with Chair Eric Stolp greeting attendees
- Eric Stolp played "[We Need to Build an Interfaith America](#)" video to open the meeting from Interfaith America

Approval of minutes from April 2022 Committee Meeting

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

Update on timeline for IBU #2 & volunteer dates

- IBU groups can sign up for multiple days and many days have one group signed up and need a partner group
 - We also have a new IBU Buddhist community coming on Sunday June 12th that need a partner group
- 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**
 - **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

Choosing Date for an IBU Committee Leader Build Day

- Chloe has created a doodle poll for committee members to fill out to determine the date of our next annual IBU committee leader build day. The doodle poll can be found [here](#).

Planning & Brainstorming for Joint Congregation Youth Centered IBU Event

- Outside of our IBU volunteer days, we are trying to plan a quarterly event for IBU groups with different focuses. One focus point lots of committee members have expressed an interest in is a youth-focused event, which will be our focus point for the first quarter of the new fiscal year (July-September 2022)
- When asked about input and brainstorming ideas, committee members shared:
 - Peter Hilts shared that we could create some sort of interactive table display like a model Habitat home and showcase how individuals of different age ranges can help Habitat and participate. Chloe shared that there are some model plans for making this sort of model house that other affiliates have used. Jeff Mawhirter has also previously made a model house as well.
 - Eric Stolp mentioned that we could use this first event to create ongoing engagement with the youth. He brought up the idea of some sort of landscaping youth campaign where a planter box could be created or something could be grown that kids could then come to the construction site to take care of or plant.
 - Jeff Ader said he really enjoyed the visual and hands-on approaches and expressed the importance of making sure during the event we not only do something but talk about why we are doing it and the purpose behind it as many young kids may not know about the need for affordable housing.
 - Jeff Mawhirter added that we should have some small group discussion time that is less structured to share faith differences and similarities
 - Location
 - Chloe asked Pastor Paula about the church nearby the construction site to use as a potential gathering location and Pastor Paula said she had not heard anything yet but thought that it is still worth pursuing (Prince of Peace Lutheran). Jeff Mawhirter also mentioned that there is a nearby Korean Methodist church that may potentially work. Sunrise has an ongoing relationship with the Korean American church on carefree.
 - When Eric Stolp asked Peter Hilts about his school connections as a place for the event since our last event was held at Jenkins Middle school Peter said we can work on finding a space at a school. Peter shared that in about a week he should have a better sense about whether that would be easier in D49 or D11 but noted that we could definitely access a principal to see if they will host.
 - Fedra Jodeh noted that the event will need to be exciting and geared towards the kids. She mentioned that for her 16- and 14-year-old, the event must be engaging and geared toward them for them to want to come.
 - When Peter Hilts asked Iain what younger kids can do, Iain mentioned that 18 is the key age that allows someone to do more on the construction site including using tools with a power source and working above waist height.
 - Jeff Mawhirter mentioned that in a previous event with the Home Depot Foundation they had set up a range of construction Olympic events
 - Peter Hilts mentioned the value of adding a competitive element to really engage the kids using what they can do to “gamify” the experience.
 - Fedra noted that we should have an incentive at the end with some sort of prize

- Eric Stolp emphasized the need to make this about the kids and not the parents
- Pastor Paula said that each team could be given materials to figure out what they can make with it, and somehow emphasize the need to collaborate by getting resources from other sources (adults at different stations)
- Fedra Jodeh said that students could be broken up into teams by age groups. Then, each group would be given materials, and we could explain that some people need a home, and that the students are tasked with creating a shelter for them with a group of materials, and then there could be an incentive at the end.
- Eric Stolp said that perhaps prizes are tiered 1st-3rd and that the top prize could include a prize for the kids, but also a prize to maybe go and pick our light fixtures or something for the homeowners. Eric mentioned that perhaps Thrivent could finance that 1,000.00 first place prize. He also mentioned that Thrivent \$250.00 action teams could be used to purchase prizes.
- Fedra Jodeh said that all kids should get something for participating and the prizes could even be 5 dollar gift cards to excite the kids.
- Jeff Mawhirter also mentioned that part of the gift could be some money off at the ReStore to incentivize people to go purchase things there.
- **This conversation will continue at our next meeting so we can try to hopefully narrow down our plan before our July committee break. Additionally, Chloe will condense our ideas into a potential plan to review for our next committee meeting.**
- **Please send any connections to a religious school leader/youth group leader from your faith community to Chloe via email at Chloe@pikespeakhabitat.org to invite the youth to this event**

Update on Interfaith America Article Highlighting IBU

- Chloe shared that recently Interfaith America, a national organization has written an article focused on emerging interfaith leaders and reached out to us to highlight the IBU. This article can be found [here](#).
 - Committee members can share as desired.
 - Our contact also mentioned that in the future, he would like Chloe to write a longer article that details the work of the IBU project in greater length.
- Our contact at Interfaith America will be in touch in the future regarding future opportunities as well related to resources, training, and potential micro-grants for our work.

Announcements/Overview of Action Items

- Review of committee member action items
 - Sign up faith groups for IBU#2 as soon as possible to ensure you get the dates you would like.
 - Chloe will continue to deliver “Building as One” reports to individual faith communities in the coming days.
 - **Chloe will be sending out an idea for our next celebration of the 2023 World Interfaith Harmony Week event via email. Habitat staff has located a potential grant funding source for this event and plans to send in a grant application in mid-June. Please send feedback via email directly to Chloe by Wednesday June 1st as we are applying for a small grant for funding.**

- No committee meetings will take place in July or December of 2022 to give the committee a break
- Next meeting Thursday June 16th via zoom at 12:00pm

12:45pm Meeting Adjourned

Committee Member Action Items:

- Sign up group for IBU#2 days as soon as possible
- Please send any connections to a religious school leader/youth group leader from your faith community to Chloe via email at Chloe@pikespeakhabitat.org to invite the youth to this event
- Please respond to Chloe via email regarding your thoughts for the WIHW (World Interfaith Harmony Week) proposal by Wednesday June 1st!
- Fill out Doodle Poll for IBU committee build day