

Faith Relations Committee Minutes

Thursday August 18th, 2022

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

Committee Members in Attendance

Barb Treacy, *St Francis of Assisi*

Fedah Jodeh, *Islamic Society of Colorado Springs*

Jeff Ader, *Temple Beit Torah*

Jeff Mawhirter, *Sunrise United Methodist Church*

Peter Hilts, *Pikes Peak Habitat Board of Directors*

Guests/Staff in Attendance

Chloe Henry, *FIA Program Manager*

Laura Williams-Parrish, *Assistant Director of Strategic Partnerships*

12:00pm Welcome

- Meeting began at 12:00pm with Chloe Henry greeting attendees
- Chloe Henry played “History of Interfaith Cooperation” video to open the meeting from Interfaith America. Video available at: <https://youtu.be/Pcku9zSKcws>

Review of minutes from June 2022 Committee Meeting

- One change brought up by Jeff Mawhirter has been made to add the correct subject heading
- Meeting minutes will be approved during next month’s meeting when Eric is back

Reminder to Sign Up for IBU #2 volunteer dates & committee build days

- Reminder to sign up for IBU#2 Vol Dates with your faith community. There are still numerous Fridays available and some Saturdays. If you need another day of the week due to religious services, please reach out to me directly.
 - The sign-up sheet can be found here [IBU#2 Volunteer Group Sign Up Sheet \(2022-2023\).xlsx](#).
- IBU Committee Build Days on the construction site
 - This fall we are offering two IBU committee build day options:
 - **Day #1: Friday September 2nd (3AM slots & 3PM slots available)**
 - **Day #2: Saturday November 12th (4AM slots & 5PM slots available)**
 - **If all slots are not filled for the September date by next Friday August 26th, I will reach out to a couple of faith group leaders participating in the IBU to see if they would be interested in joining our committee day to fill additional spots.**
 - Registration link:
https://www.cervistech.com/acts/console.php?console_id=0364&console_type=event_list&event_id=27&ht=1&res_code=IBULeader

Update on Grant Application with Interfaith America for WIHW Celebration

- We were approved for the Emerging Interfaith Leaders Grant for our 2023 event in celebration of Interfaith Harmony Week talking about the racial homeownership gap in the amount of \$2,500.00
- There is a national religion reporter who reached out regarding potentially doing a documentary about our Interfaith Build in partnership with Interfaith America. She is in the process of pitching the idea to the Editor in Chief, but when Chloe and Laura Williams-Parrish met with her, she did ask if one or two representatives from our committee would be willing to meet with her briefly over zoom to get their thoughts on our IBU project and help frame the documentary structure as she works on building it. For this we will be looking to have a diverse representation of individuals from different traditions/backgrounds/beliefs etc. to engage with the reporter. **If you are interested in this opportunity, please reach out to Chloe via email by COB Monday August 22nd. Once we are informed as to whether or not the documentary will move forward, Chloe will keep the committee up to date.**
- **When Chloe asked the committee if they had any questions or comments thus far, committee members shared:**
 - Jeff Ader asked if in relation to the World Interfaith Harmony Week Event, if we plan to partner with another group like the Interfaith Coalition again since it was successful last year partnering together. Chloe responded and said yes, we would love to partner again with the Interfaith Coalition and when we start planning in October, we can decide how we can best partner together this year like last. Perhaps some of their members could be panelists as well.
 - Jeff Mawhirter asked for the IBU committee build days whether or not the groups will have lunch together. Chloe said that once the slots are filled for a specific day, she will email the confirmed registrants as a group so the group can brainstorm ideas for lunch and decide together. Additionally Chloe said she will provide some snacks and coffee.

Planning for September Interfaith Youth Event

- **Event Details**
 - **DATE: SUNDAY, September 18th, 2022**
 - **TIME: 1:30PM - 4:30PM**
 - **Volunteers please show up between 12:45pm-1:00pm**
 - **LOCATION: The ReStore Northeast**
 - (6250 Tutt Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO, 80923)
- **Event Outline & timeline**
 - Event Outline
 - 1. Event Check in & welcome remarks
 - Students check-in, turn in youth waiver, and receive their group based on age
 - Individual student groups introduce themselves to one another, pick a team name, and get ready for the Olympics to start
 - Chloe introduces IBU project, mission of Habitat, gets kids excited for the event, and provides directions for student projects
 - 2. Student Projects

- Adult group leaders lead their students through their group build project (based on their age). While the kids will have most of the materials they need to finish their project, they will be missing a couple of key tools (paint brushes, nails, etc.) In order to get those key tools, they will need to coordinate and work with other student teams.
 - Student groups that finish early then get to participate in the additional Olympic-themed games and challenges
 - 3. Awards Ceremony as a Large Group
 - Popsicles and other snacks to kids
 - A panel of judges (IBU committee members) will vote to choose the top three completed projects and the students in those groups will receive a special prize.
 - Photos will be taken of all participating groups and photos will be shared with faith communities
 - All students will get a sticker for attending the event (and potentially a coupon per family to the ReStore)
 - *****Chloe will send email in early September after the registration deadline with a finalized full timeline and student groups after we know how many student teams we will have**
- Prizes
 - As a participation gift, Chloe has ordered custom designed stickers that the kids can put on their water bottles, binders etc. Chloe is working with the ReStore to see if we can get each family attending one coupon to the ReStore to come shop and check out the finished student projects. We also have 25 full T-shirts that have been graciously provided by Thrivent as a part of their “Action Team” that can be gifted to the winning team as a portion of their prize.
 - Winning team prizes will be decided in early September once we know how many students will be in attendance. If you would like to help coordinate this prize, reach out to Chloe directly.
 - **All present committee members will be judges during the event to help choose the winning completed project in each category.**
- **Registrations & Encouraging Sign-ups**
 - Currently we have a handful of official student sign-ups using the registration link (grades 3rd-10th). Many faith communities have expressed interest. However, **we need to encourage students to formally register online using the form so that we can plan to purchase enough materials for each project based on the age of students. The registration deadline is Thursday, September 1st. Chloe will be sending out a reminder emails**
 - Once a student signs up using the registration form, they will receive a confirmation email from Chloe. All students will need to fill out a youth waiver and either send that to me prior to the event or bring it with them the day of.
 - All committee members should have received digital marketing materials via email.
 - Our future homeowner Anna will be in attendance and will be helping as a volunteer. Her children will also be participating in the event.

- **Overview of Volunteer Needs & Opportunities**
 - **For this event to run smoothly, we will need committee & volunteer support. If you are available to help volunteer in some capacity, there are a variety of ways that you can help with this event including:**
 - Student Group Leaders: Leading a group of students through their projects (full step-by-step instructions will be provided ahead of time via email)
 - Game Leader: lead students who finish their group project early through additional challenges (supplies/game rules provided)
 - Registration table check in
 - Bring snacks *Please be thoughtful about religious dietary restrictions
 - Speaker: help Chloe welcome students to event
 - **If you or someone from your congregation/community would be willing to help out during this event, please fill out the volunteer form and Chloe will connect with you individually. Full role descriptions and a sign-up sheet can be found at:**
 - [Youth Interfaith Construction Olympics Volunteer Sign Up Form.docx](#)
- **When Chloe asked the committee if they had any questions or comments about the youth event committee members shared:**
 - Peter Hilts asked if we have enough entertainment centers. Chloe responded and said that yes, Andria at the ReStore has been pulling them but that is why the registration deadline is important to confirm how many students we have per age group.
 - Feda Jodeh asked if kids will be broken down into age ranges. Chloe responded and said yes students will be in groups based on their age.
 - Jeff Mawhirter asked if Chloe sent the volunteer form to Joe. Chloe said she had not, so she will email that form to Jeff directly so he can distribute.
 - Jeff Ader mentioned that he had some concerns in relation to volunteerism and engagement that he would like to discuss especially since one of the last volunteer days was cancelled due to lack of coordination among the groups and to ensure that doesn't happen again. Jeff mentioned that for his congregation it is getting more challenging to get volunteers committed and engaged so he would like to brainstorm some ideas for engaging people in more tangible ways so the same people aren't the same group always volunteering. Jeff mentioned perhaps the T shirts will help with that if there are more of those.
 - Jeff Mawhirter mentioned that for his group he has found that when someone gets on site, the work itself is fulfilling but it is getting them there. For his group the challenge is the commitment part of it. Previously he used to be able to get 30 men to show up on site without prior registration but now the committing and signing up a head of time can be a barrier to entry of sorts.
 - Jeff Ader said for his group the struggle for commitment is part of the challenge since most of the dedicated volunteers are not as physically active anymore and that perhaps there is an intimidation of being asked to do something more physically intense, so perhaps there is a way to use other activities with less physical risk.

- Pastor Paula Stecker mentioned that the ReStore could be an option. Chloe agreed and said that if faith communities are interested in ReStore opportunities she could work with faith communities to get a day set.
- Pastor Paula Stecker mentioned that she has experienced the same and knows that it is difficult for families to make commitments right now. Pastor Paula said she knows why the Habitat staff needs people to register but also sees the landscape has changed in some ways which make it difficult to take that step to sign up and commit.
- Jeff Ader doesn't know if it is a viable option, but maybe there is a way to grade the level of physical intensity for specific days like painting being as a level 1-2. Pastor Paula did mention that the foreman have been able to shift to different tasks based on weather, so maybe there is a way to intentionally hold some less burdensome tasks. Jeff Mawhirter noted that the construction team will come up with other work based on physical ability.
- Jeff Ader mentioned then perhaps it is more about how we package and sell it to potential volunteers to note that there are a variety of tasks. Chloe noted that she has seen similar things when engaging with congregations and churches about expectations and individuals being worried about the experience that is needed to participate so Chloe noted that she is willing to come to a faith community during or after a service to talk through volunteerism, the expectations, and the willingness to work with people of all abilities and skill levels. Chloe is also willing to create any desired written documents desired that speak to this.
- Barb Treacy mentioned that she has had trouble due to consistent volunteers getting older now and being concerned about work depending on if it is indoors or outdoors so she mentioned any information on the type of work beforehand is helpful
 - Chloe shared that makes sense and groups do like to ask for that and it is completely understandable why. Chloe mentioned the reason our construction staff doesn't normally do that unless they are certain of what they will be working on is because often due to weather, shipping delays, etc. the construction team does not want to promise a group they will be working on something specific and then we cannot do that task since all these factors change consistently.
 - Jeff Ader mentioned that perhaps on the registration form there is a way for people to note these things so supervisors have a better idea of what to save. Peter Hilts said that's a great idea and that self-identification can be very helpful in these conversations that can be a little more awkward at times or delicate. Chloe agrees and thinks that is great and will check in with Sarah about the registration form. Chloe also mentioned individual faith leaders could connect with her directly too if there is a group with more limitations and Chloe can coordinate directly with Sarah to give them a heads up.

- Pastor Paula also mentioned the importance of continuing to welcome people to come, find an appropriate task and continue to invite. Pastor Paula mentioned we are encouraging people to be a little vulnerable as well as long as we can assure them they will not be doing anything that is unsafe which we can.
- Jeff Ader noted that it has been helpful to brainstorm and think through this as a group.

Announcements/Overview of Action Items

- Next home dedication ceremony: next Friday August 26th at 10:00am for the Board Build home dedication
- Review of committee member action items
 - [1. Encourage families/students to sign up for Youth Event using registration link](#)
 - [2. Sign up to volunteer during youth event and/or bring snacks/ supplies](#)
 - [3. Sign up for committee build volunteer days](#)
 - 4. Reach out to Chloe if you are willing to speak to reporter
 - [4. Sign up faith community for IBU Day](#)
- **Next meeting Thursday September 22nd via zoom at 12:00pm**
 - *****Please note our meeting for September has been pushed back a week so the committee can debrief the youth event during the meeting**

12:53pm Meeting Adjourned by Chloe Henry at 12:52