

EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL

P.O. BOX 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662

January 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church and began at 12:00 noon and ran until 1:35 PM.

WELCOME: After 15 minutes of lunch and networking, the meeting was called to order and conducted by EISCC President Tony Copes.

OPENING PRAYER: Tony Copes

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 30 representatives and guests, including several new people.

MINUTES of the November 8, 2016, meeting as written by Secretary Karen Studders were unanimously approved as written. Reminder: for announcements to be included in the meeting minutes, please provide them to the secretary; electronic submission preferred.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Warren Marquardson reported our accounts balance of about \$101,000 balance on hand. Approximately \$54,000 Backpack Meals, \$25,000 Congregations for Kids and \$21,000 EISCC.

PRESIDENT'S BOARD REPORT: Tony Copes announced that Dick Jacke has resigned from the EISCC board because he is taking on a leadership role in the UCC nationally. He/we thanked Dick Jacke for his several years of service to EISCC.

12:15 – 12:45 PM PROGRAM: Faith Action Network (FAN) 2017 Legislative Agenda by Rev. Paul Benz

Rev. Paul Benz accepted our invitation to visit with us about the upcoming legislative session, which began yesterday, January 9th. Paul provided three FAN handouts titled (1) The Inslee Budget, (2) Session begins Monday, January 9th: Let's unite our voices for justice and (3) 2017 Legislative Agenda. (attached)

1. Under **Inslee's Budget:** The governor proposes funding in 4 ways:

- (1) Increase Business & Occupation Tax by 1% (from 1.5 to 2.5%) on professional, personal, and financial services (ie attorneys, accountants, architects, music instructors)
- (2) Institute a tax on carbon at \$25 per ton of emissions beginning the second year of the 2017-2019 biennium, one half of which would go to fund the rest of the McCleary decision and the other half would go to four human service programs listed on the handout.
- (3) Institute a tax on capital gains at a 7.9% rate on the sale of stocks and bonds beginning at \$25K for an individual and %50K for a couple (exempts homes, farms and forests)
- (4) Repeal at least two tax exemptions for bottled water, oil refineries, and require nearby non-residents to apply for a sales tax reimbursement.

2. **Legislative session** convenes the 2nd Monday of every January per Washington Constitution. Session began yesterday, **January 9th**, with all 147 state legislators sworn in. House Appropriations held work session and public hearing. Proud of Governor Inslee's \$40 billion budget and his 4 ideas for revenue (above).

FAN encourages people to KNOW their state legislators, their contact information, including website, phone and email, and to use them!! Legislative Hotline is **1-800-562-6000** and website is www.leg.wa.gov
The email format for all state legislators is: firstname.lastname@leg.wa.gov.

FAN Interfaith Advocacy Day in Olympia is February 9th ; see www.fanwa.org/interfaith-advocacy-day

3. FAN 2017 Legislative Agenda

5 buckets: (1) Building a More Humane & Sustainable Biennial Budget, (2) Increasing Support for Human Services and Reducing Wealth Inequality, (3) Dismantling the Culture of Violence, (4) Protecting Housing & Preventing Homelessness and (5) Sustaining Washington's Environment.

January begins budget discussions. The fiscal year starts July 1st. It is a biennial budget.

Key issues: (1) Addressing the McCleary decision, the Governor has \$2.7 billion in his proposed budget, and FAN supports funding our K-12 system. (2) Addressing Mental Health is key and unfortunately the governor only proposes \$300 million and FAN wants our Mental Health System to be fully funded.

FAN has 4 additional budget issues: (1) Support Civil Legal Aid at \$12 million; Northwest Justice Project is a small agency doing a lot of anti-poverty legal work including domestic violence, evictions, foreclosures, credit, etc. (2) Support Small Farm Direct Marketing at \$500,000 and (3) TANF needs to be fully restored at \$15 million. An example of TANF: a household of 3 receives \$521 per month and if restored would receive \$541, and (4) Reform Washington's Deadly force statute.

FAN's #1 Housing Issue is to eliminate the 2018 sunset clauses and increase the document recording fees by 40 cents. The money goes to the state treasury and is used for the Housing Trust Fund.

FAN's #1 Environmental Issue is to extend the Solar Tax Credits for homeowners. Goal is to become less fossil-fuel dependent. Thursday there is a House hearing on HB 1048, Technology and Energy Development.

Questions and Answers:

Jean said that there is a bill that has been introduced to allow bringing guns into stadiums.

Farida raised the Housing Trust Fund. Governor seeks \$100 million, FAN seeks \$200 million. Neither is enough to prevent homelessness or build affordable housing.

Special Thanks to Rev. Paul Benz for taking the time to meet with us; he left to drive to Olympia.

SPOTLIGHTS: Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) existing day and winter shelters and proposed permanent shelter by Josh Teslaw and Steve Roberts (David Johns-Bowling is ill)

CFH Day Center is open Sunday - Thursday (NOT open Friday or Saturday) and serving 40-50 men

CFH Winter Shelter is open 7 nights/week and serving 80-90 men, and is at full capacity. The Eastside Winter Shelter services are from 7:30 pm to 7:30 am, from November 2016 to April 2017. Men are allowed on site beginning at 7:00 pm. Space is provided on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority going to men who spent the previous night there. This is the ONLY low-barrier shelter for men on the Eastside. The men's shelter is staffed by professional, experienced employees and volunteers managed by CFH.

The Day Center and Night Center have portapotties, showers and laundry on a trailer but NO kitchen facilities.

New Location: [515B 116th Ave NE](#) (at Lincoln Center), in Suite 174. The patio of Suite 174 will be the main entrance. The closest bus route is the **271 bus**, which stops at 116 Ave NE and NE 2nd Pl. Walk back South, and the Center is on the left.

David Johns-Bowling has replaced Steve as Executive Director and manager of the day-day operations of CFH.

Steve Roberts stepped down as executive director and is now the person managing the permanent shelter, which will replace what has operated for 8 years and integrate it with the day center which has operated for 3 years. The siting process is being led by the City of Bellevue, not CFH. The City will make a final decision in March; it is a land use decision. Expect to build in 2019 and open in 2020. The shelter will have the same capacity as today, 100 beds. It will also serve as a location for the Daytime service center. The Center will have 24 hour access. Legal, medical, dental, employment services will be on-site. 50 housing units for people experiencing homelessness will be above the Center, built by Imagine Housing. CFH/Steve is working with businesses and citizen groups; NIMBY is an issue. CFH is not responsible for siting; CFH will be the operator of the center. The proposed site is next to transit, Eastside Public Health and the Bellevue College.

The cities of Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond have met and decided that Bellevue will house and support men, Kirkland will house and support women and Redmond will house and support youth. The proposed men's permanent shelter is the first proposed building to support people experiencing homelessness on the Eastside.

Best way to show support is to write the Bellevue City Councilmembers directly at council@bellevuewa.gov Share your faith group's experience of working with CFH, and that you are proud to work with people experiencing homelessness.

Questions and Answers:

- Concerns were expressed about what has been in the papers and whether enough support for the project has been expressed.
- Steve clarified that this is a low barrier shelter and that Bellevue police data documents that there is no increase in crime around existing shelters.
- Drug usage questions.
- Siting of the facility is Bellevue's responsibility, not CFH's. The City originally looked at 14 potential sites, narrowed it to 5 sites which it presented to CFH and Imagine Housing, who narrowed it to 3 sites. Eastgate is the site under consideration.
- It is a low barrier shelter. EISCC participants are encouraged to counter what is written on Next Door and write the City Council and Bellevue Reporter.
- Eastgate is currently owned by King County and the land would transfer to CFH and Imagine Housing, who would operate the facility. It is a 50 year operating contract. Project cost is approximately \$20 million: \$5 million for parking & day center/winter shelter and \$15 million for 50 housing units.
- CFH has been addressing concerns since August 2016. Upcoming Bellevue City Council Study Session expected 2nd week in February.
- CFH has the highest results for housing people experiencing homelessness in King County and expects higher results with this facility.

REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR Sandy Lewis: Please thank Josh Teslaw (sp), Elizabeth Maupin, Brittany Holmes, Warren Marquradson and JC Mitchell who provided the food for today's meeting.

REPORTS:

PRESIDENT'S BOARD REPORT (cont'd): Tony Copes read the EISCC letter to cities regarding encampments. Copy of the letter is attached to the minutes.

Tony relayed that EISCC had written an email to the Bellevue City Council. Members suggested/authorized EISCC write a letter to the Bellevue Reporter supporting the men's permanent shelter.

Backpack Meals: Kenny Ho and Jan Starr

- Expanded to K-12 from 5-12.
- Have changed the way that they package food.
- Average 300 bags/week in 2017; average of 140 bags/week in 2016
- 20,000 students in Bellevue School District, about 200 children experiencing homelessness and 4,000 children on free/reduced lunch.

Congregations for Kids: Nancy Jacobs

- Helped 1400 students with backpacks and/or school supplies this school year.
- The number of students experiencing homelessness is increasing. In 2016: final number was 250. In 2017 so far already 182, 30 more than last year at this time.

EISCC Legislative Coordinator: Jean Harris encouraged everyone to attend Faith Action Network Legislative Advocacy Day on February 9th and carpool.

Hopelink: Brittany Holmes relayed a huge thank you from families for donations that EISCC members made for kids, food and money. Hopelink served 564 households and 1064 children for holiday meals. Many happy parents due to \$2392 received from EISCC members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sandy Lewis announced that if you have refreshment questions, to please call her at 425-562-1228; Betty Spohn is out-of-state for the winter. Donations are encouraged to St. Margaret's since they provide EISCC this meeting space.

Karina O'Malley announced that The Sophia Way is open daily and needs meals. Winter shelter is open in Bellevue and operated by Catholic Community Services; about 50 staying at The Sophia Way.

Elizabeth Maupin announced a Poverty Simulation Workshop is being held 1/14 from 9 AM-noon at St. Louise Parish. Meaningful Movies is showing the film "American Winter" on 1/17 at St. Margaret's in Bellevue and the documentary "13th" on 1/13 at in Woodinville, hosted by European Dissent. On 1/20 at 3 PM there is a theatrical production of Blanket of Fear at Blaine Memorial UMC in Seattle.

Karen Studders shared a recent email from Amber Blake regarding the 2016 Crop Walk. They wanted to "thank EISCC members for their financial support of Crop Walk this past October; it reached an all-time high of \$12,000! It was a huge success and meaningful to be able to partner with MAPS/ MCRC in making a local and global dent for those who lack sustainable access to resources!"

Also, reminder January 27th is the annual Count Us In. Registration information was included in this meeting's agenda. The Presbyterian Church, 1717 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue is the Eastside base for count participants and will serve us breakfast.

February 2nd is **Interfaith Advocacy Day** in Olympia.

ACTION NEEDED: The City of Bellevue is accepting comments regarding the **proposed permanent men’s shelter and supporting permanent housing at Eastgate**. Several public meetings have been held. The City of Bellevue and King County are working in partnership with Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing. The site being studied is at 14350 SE Eastgate Way. Information can be found at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/eastside-mens-shelter.htm>. Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council, EISCC, served as the fiscal agent for Congregations for the Homeless in its early years. The EISCC Board supports this siting of permanent men’s shelter and supportive housing in the City of Bellevue. Please write and send emails/ letters to EastsideMensShelter@bellevuewa.gov or call Mike McCormick Huentelman at 425-452-4089, or contact Bellevue City Councilmembers directly at council@bellevuewa.gov.

CLOSING PRAYER: Jean Harris

THE NEXT EISCC MEETING will take place on Tuesday, February 14, 2016, 12:00 – 1:30 pm

PROGRAM: Just Serve by Gordon Wilson.

LOCATION: St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church, Bristol Hall, 4228 Factoria Boulevard SE, Bellevue, WA

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Studders

Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council Secretary