

Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council

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

July 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church; it began at 12:00 noon & ended at 1:45 PM.

WELCOME: People helped themselves to lunch and conversation. The meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM and conducted by EISCC President Tony Copes.

OPENING PRAYER: Dick Jacke

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 14 representatives, new people and guests.

MINUTES of the May 9 and June 13, 2017 meetings were presented to the membership for approval. Motion for approval passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Warren Marquardson reported our account balance is available on the website; about \$103,900. Approximately \$62,600 Backpack Meals, \$23,300 Congregations for Kids and \$17,900 EISCC.

Reminder to all that annual EISCC dues of \$45 for congregations and \$30 for organizations are due.

PROGRAM:

Hunger Issues: **Jan Starr**, Backpack Meals, **Scott Milne**, Hopelink and **Belinda Dunlop**, Emergency Feeding Program, invited.

Jan reported that Backpack Meals provided 9522 units of food to 350 kids. Hunger affects physical and mental health. Kids ages 12-16 are twice as likely to have emotional conduct problems. 20% of kids under age 18 are food insecure. Pediatricians now developing instrument to screen for food insecurity.

Scott reported that Hopelink serves 4000 unique households at 5 locations in King County. There is a summer program for two weeks. He did not bring statistics and prefers to invite questions.

Questions and Answers:

- With the high cost of housing/rent, what is happening here? The number of low income seniors and families are growing. People cannot afford to live here. We haven't recovered from 2008. The numbers of people we serve may drop but it is because people move out of the area to South King County.
- Children are the highest food insecurity of any age group. SNAP is most important and lifts kids out of poverty AND puts money into the economy.
- Hopelink provides supplemental food bank – 6 days of food every 2 weeks.
- Nourishing Networks 4 years ago.

- First, make people aware. Jan thinks people do not know that others in our community are hungry.
- Ann Casey Foundation for report informed King County's Regional Food Policy.
- The Children's Alliance to End Childhood Hunger in Washington. "We must engage our most vulnerable populations in authentic, meaningful ways. We must address childhood hunger and childhood obesity as two sides of the same coin. We must correct misconceptions of **a broken food system.**"
- WA is ranked #22 on food security; Minnesota is #1 on food security. Very different policies in Minnesota on requirements to qualify for food assistance and how social service organizations make food available to people.
- Fresh produce from gleaning farms in Carnation.
- Last year Holy Cross Lutheran gave one ton of food from congregation! Plan Row to Row to Row; 1 of 3 donated to the local food pantry.
- Hopelink now open 9:30 am – 7:00 pm with an appointment for supplemental food. Home delivery available for home bound.
- Food banks and Backpack Meals provide the balance of the food to the most vulnerable/hungry.
- Jan asks that people write letters to the editor and articles for the Bellevue Reporter and Seattle Times.
- Sign national letter on earned income tax credits.
- Rent control.

SPOTLIGHT: Discussion of ways to avoid saying "ICE" when pronouncing the acronym of our organization, EISCC. Green sheet created by Diane Richardson and discussion led by Tony Copes. Members individually completed the forms and turned them into board members. Tony and Diane will collate the responses and inform the membership.

REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR: Sandy Lewis and Betty Spohn

Please thank Anne St. Germain, Joshua Terlow and Betty Spohn who provided the food for today's meeting.

REPORTS: The reports began at 1:10 PM.

President's Board Report: Tony Copes

Jean Harris agreed to chair the board nominating committee and is working with the board chair. Tony again asked for volunteers to serve on the board nominating committee. There are at least 3 openings on the board - 2 at large positions and the president-elect position, which is a three year commitment. Farida Hakim has agreed to temporarily fill one of the at large board positions until the October election. Job descriptions are underway so that the work is not just done by the secretary, treasurer and president.

Backpack Meals: Jan Starr supplemented her previous presentation. Over 9,000 meals provided a year. Vouchers for summer allowed them to provide \$2,500 for fresh fruit and vegetables.

Congregations for Kids: Nancy Jacobs

Nancy's team is ready to roll and program is ramping up. Demand is increasing.

EISCC Legislative Coordinator: Jean Harris was absent.

Karen relayed capital budget issues. To contact your state legislators, call **1-800-562-6000**. Tell them where you live and they'll provide you contact information for your legislators. **Email or postcards are the best way to reach state legislators.**

Hopelink: Brittany Holmes absent; see Hopelink's earlier presentation on hunger.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rev. Baber announced that EISCC owes \$100 in annual Eastside Human Services Forum, EHSF, dues. He reported on the opiate meeting in June at the Redmond Schoolhouse; Karen Studders and Trish Rogers attended the June meeting for EISCC.

ACTION NEEDED:

- Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council served as the fiscal agent for Congregations for the Homeless in its early years. EISCC supports this siting of the permanent men's shelter and supportive housing within the City of Bellevue. 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 & 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>.
- 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: Tony Copes, substituting for Elizabeth Maupin

NOTE the monthly EISCC Board meeting has been moved to the FIRST Tuesday of the month. The board will meet in August even though there is no General Membership meeting in August.

THE NEXT EISCC MEETING will take place on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, 12:00 – 1:30 pm

PROGRAM: The topic of **Men's Shelter** is to be presented by Steve Roberts or David Bowling, and others, Congregations for the Homeless, a former EISCC Agency.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Studders

Secretary, Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council Board