

Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council

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

October 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church; it began at 12:00 noon and ended at 1:40 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: Khizer Sheriff

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 21 representatives, including 9 congregations.

MINUTES July 11th and September 9th minutes were approved by the membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Warren Marquardson reported our account balance is available on the website; about \$124,000. Approximately \$66,000 Backpack Meals, \$40,000 Congregations for Kids and \$18,300 EISCC.

Reminder: Only EISCC dues paying congregations can vote in EISCC elections; dues paying social service organizations cannot vote in EISCC elections.

PROGRAM:

Affordable Housing Strategy for City of Bellevue: Mike Katterman and Janet Lewine, City of Bellevue, Department of Planning and Community Development.

- The need for affordable housing affects everyone!
- A survey of Bellevue residents and businesses found that in 2017, 77% of the households find affordable housing is the #1 community problem. In 2015, 68% and in 2013, 51%.
- People cannot afford to live here, in this city or King County.
- Bellevue School District loses 1/4 of its teachers after teaching for a year. Teachers commute for a year and quit.
- Cost is financial and human quality of life.
- The housing market is insane here. Median rent is \$2,700 per month. Median sale price is \$1.95 million.
- Workers earning \$10 to \$20 per hour are the most at risk of losing housing or being homeless.
- Workers earning \$15/hour earn \$31,000/year and can only afford to pay \$800 per month for rent.
- Workers earning \$20/hour earn \$42,000/year and can only afford to pay \$1,000 per month for rent.
- Washington minimum wage is \$9/hour.
- "AMI" is Area Medium income.
- "Affordable" is **30%** household income spent on rent and utilities.
- Transportation is the #2 expense.
- 9,100 households (17%) or 22,000 people earn **<50%** of the AMI.
- About 3,100 units (6%) are affordable.
- 2/3 or 65% of Bellevue residents make > AMI. 1/3 or 31% of Bellevue residents make < AMI.
- 16% are senior citizens spending >50% of their income on rent.
- Hence, we see REAL impacts are on food and prescription drugs.
- Bellevue has been working for decades but the issue has gotten much worse.
- ARCH is in 15 cities and directs funding and density bonuses and direct assistance.
- ARCH has only produced 2,500 units since 1990. Unclear if this is the number in Bellevue alone or in all 15 cities.
- As part of Bellevue's Affordable Housing Plan, a Technical Advisory Group =TEG was created to (1) identify and test, (2) no recommendations, and (3) create guidance.

- The TAG said that insanity requires BOLD actions. Some Types of Actions the City of Bellevue is taking:
 - June 2017 Bellevue’s Affordable Housing Plan approved
 - Saving Highland Village maintained affordable housing for >80 kids
 - Trying to identify and anticipate buildings that may be redeveloped
 - King County Regional Affordable Housing Taskforce is doing for King County wide what we did for Bellevue
 - Micro-housing will have kitchens, unlike the units built in Seattle, which taught us people need kitchens.
 - Biggest obstacle is non-profit land. Faith-based land is an option.
 - Comprehensive plan amendments and rezoning takes years.
 - Development on public lands near transit.
 - Update MFTE.
 - Eastgate rezone is done. Extra density for affordable housing.
 - Families can never set aside to save money to buy with rents as high as they are.
 - Tap additional funding sources.
 - Bellevue General Fund is flat at \$450,000 a year.
 - \$3.5 million over 10 years so an additional \$500,000 a year.
 - Implementation: goal of 2,500 New affordable homes over 10 years.

<https://planning.bellevuewa.gov/planning/planning-initiatives/affordable-housing-strategy/> -- provides a link to the presentation and Bellevue’s website on Affordable Housing Strategies

If you have further questions, please contact Michael Kattermann, AICP, Senior Planner -- Planning & Community Development, 425-452-2042, mkattermann@bellevuewa.gov

SPOTLIGHT: None because of annual EISCC voting for board of directors.

REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR: Sandy Lewis and Betty Spohn

Please thank Farida Hakim, Warren Marquardson, Jan Starr 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 thanked Jean Harris for her service and presented the slate of officers. A quorum was present. No nominations came from the floor.

Election: Proposed Slate of Officers*:

Membership orally accepted the slate and orally approved three uncontested officer positions:

- President - Linda Hillesheim
- Past President - Tony Copes
- Treasurer - Warren Marquardson

Two officer positions remain unfilled:

- President Elect - Open
- Secretary - Open

Four At-Large Directors were selected from the slate of five people using paper ballots. Ballots were counted by Karen Studders and independently recounted by Betty Spohn. The four At-Large Directors are:

- Anne St. Germain

- Farida Hakim
- Steve Roberts
- Karen Studders

A special Thank you to all members of the board of directors who have served EISCC over this past year!!

*According to EISCC By-laws, **each member congregation in good standing (current dues paid) shall select two voting representatives, preferably one clergy and one layperson who are eligible to vote to elect the next EISCC board of directors.** There are two vacancies on the board – secretary and the president-elect, which is a three year commitment. EISCC By-laws allow up to four At-Large Directors on the board.

With the elections, there was no time to hear reports from:

- **Backpack Meals:** Jan Starr
- **Congregations for Kids:** Nancy Jacobs
- **EISCC Legislative Coordinator:** Jean Harris
 - DREAM Act needs support.
 - US Representative Dave Reichart is retiring; pick a candidate and support him/her.
- **Hopelink:** Brittany Holmes

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- October 12th, 11:30 AM at Red Lion: The Sophia Way Annual Fundraiser, DESC Deputy and Washington State Representative Nicole Macri explaining Housing First
- October 24th at 7 pm: Aldersgate and Newport Library Homeless Forum by Real Change Speaker’s Bureau.
- November 12th Fostering Interfaith Relation on Eastside, Holy Spirit in Kirkland hosting

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 at 14350 SE Eastgate Way is the most viable for the Congregations for the Homeless. 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

NOTE the monthly EISCC Board meeting has been moved to the FIRST Tuesday of the month.

THE NEXT EISCC MEETING will take place on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, 12:00 – 1:30 pm

PROGRAM: The Sophia Way

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