

EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES ---OCTOBER 8, 2019

Meeting was called to order by President Linda Hillesheim at 12:10 PM

Opening ---A Scripture reading by Elizabeth Maupin

Introductions were made by those present

Minutes of the September meeting were approved

Financial Report --- (See EISCC.net for current financials) Treasurer, Warren Marquardson, also mentioned notices about Membership Dues for the coming year will soon be sent out. Insurance premium was paid in September.

Election of Officers ----Voting Members of EISCC elected the following for the 2019-2020 EISCC Board:

President ----Steve Roberts

President Elect ---Position Open

Past President – Linda Hillesheim

Treasurer – Warren Marquardson

Secretary – Farida Hakim

Delegate-at-Large ---Elizabeth Maupin

Open Positions ---Delegate-at-Large

If you are interested in serving on the EISCC Board, please contact Steve Roberts (206-275-7803)

Affordable Housing Workshop - Elizabeth Maupin gave a brief update on the Workshop to be held Oct.12 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Bellevue. At Meeting time, approximately 130 reservations had been received. Appreciation was expressed to ARCH for providing lunch for the event.

Congregations for Kids – Nancy Jacobs is currently evaluating data from this summer's project. She says the response from Bellevue schools has been great after 1,661 packs were delivered plus 65 extra packs were given for use after the beginning of school. Nancy estimates the value of the packs at just under \$50,000. Donations from past regular donors was down about \$20,000 this year. A large legacy donation, however, was received and will help to keep the program going.

Bellevue City Council Candidate Forum – Linda announced EISCC has been asked to participate in this Forum which will be held at East Shore Unitarian Church, 12700 SE 32nd St., Bellevue on Wednesday, Oct. 23. All candidates have been invited. The doors will be open at 6:30 PM and the Forum will begin at 7 PM.

Hopelink –Tara Adams reported packets have been mailed for Energy Assistance; others needing help may apply by going to the Hopelink Website or by calling 425-658-2592 to schedule an appointment. She also announced Phase 1 of the Mobile Food Bank will begin this month and that some Food Bank hours have been extended.

The Hopelink Annual Luncheon will be held on Monday, October 21 at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue

From 11:30 AM to 1 PM. The guest speaker will be Queen Latifah. Make reservations on the Hopelink website.

The Hopelink Toy and Gift Holiday Rooms this year will be at the Redmond, Shoreline and Sno-Valley Centers. Families signed up with the Bellevue or Kirkland centers may go to the Gift Room at Redmond. Currently registered food bank clients can begin signing up for gift room appointments in late October. If you qualify but are not registered, you can sign up at a food bank. Information about donation dates and the dates the Gift Rooms will be open will be announced soon.

Lunch providers – Sandy Lewis thanked Bob Riley, Fran Wessling, Nadine Bentsen, Betty Spohn and herself for today's food.

Presentation - Backpack Meals for Kids -- because children should not go hungry on weekends

Presenters – Jan Starr and Maggie Rader

For additional information, financial statement, to donate or volunteer, please contact Jan Starr at jdstarrs@gmail.com or go to the website www.backpackmeals.org

Jan opened her presentation by reminding and thanking EISCC for the seven years that EISCC was the umbrella organization for Backpack Meals. They have now received their own 501 (c) 3 designation and are an all-volunteer, non-profit organization. She continued by saying that although hunger is not obvious in the Bellevue area, it is definitely real and a concern among children in the School District. There are families that do not have the funds to buy nutritious food which is important in child development and overall health. Teachers have observed that when children are hungry it is hard to learn ---some cannot sit still and others misbehave and some show signs of depression. Free breakfasts in the schools for those qualifying is a help but not all Bellevue schools have a breakfast program. There are 28 schools in the Bellevue School District with children from families speaking 99 languages. At present 18 per cent of the children qualify for free or reduced cost meals. Enough food for the children who are homeless is a challenge. Although the homeless family can usually find shelter, finding transportation, medical assistance and food is much more difficult.

Backpack Meals for Kids provide healthy weekend meals to Bellevue school children (preschool through 12th grade) who might otherwise go hungry. Backpack Meals Board Member, Maggie Rader, provided details about the program. The packets of food that are delivered each week to the counselors at the various schools are made up of good nutrition items. Each packet contains food for 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 2 dinners plus healthy snacks. Last year 9,694 K-12 food packs were delivered plus 1,604 for the eligible preschool children. All funds received from the faith community, businesses, individuals and foundations go for food. Volunteers make up the packets of food for the preschool children, box those packets and deliver them plus those for K-12 to the schools as well as conducting food drives and fund raising activities. The website now has a list of the foods that can be donated for the pre-school packets.

Announcements –

Eastside Community Forum on Homelessness and Poverty ---Monday, Oct.28 6:45 pm – 9 pm --St. Jude's Catholic Church ---10526 166th Ave NE, Redmond ---RSVP –

<https://eastside-community-forum-on-homelessness.eventbrite.com> For more information, contact 425-836-8061 Everyone is Welcome! Representatives from Catholic Community Services, The Sophia Way, Congregations for the Homeless, Hopelink and Friends of Youth will be present.

Fran Wessling (425-345-1237) **An Alternative Gift Fair** will be held on Saturday, November 16 at the Peter Kirk Community Center in Kirkland ----10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with 20 to 25 organizations offering gift options represented.

Thanksgiving Meal – The Muslim Community Resource Center (17550 NE 67th Ct., Redmond) invites you to a Traditional Thanksgiving Meal on Tuesday, Nov. 26 from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. PLEASE REGISTER at <https://thanksgiving-share-your-blessings.eventbrite.com>

Church of the Resurrection – You are invited to join a Tree Lighting on Dec. 7 at 6 PM

A Thank You to Linda Hillesheim ---Steve Roberts expressed thanks to Linda for her years of service on the EISCC Board as a delegate-at-large and then as President Elect and as President. She will continue on the Board as Past President.

Closing --A prayer by Steve Roberts

NEXT MEETING ---TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 ---12 NOON

ATTAIN HOUSING

HOMES FOR FAMILIES

EISCC's mission: Members of Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council ("EISCC") believe we are guided by the moving of God's spirit in our community to work together in a spirit of caring and celebration. We honor and respect each other's religious heritages, welcome and pray for each other, and share information about pressing community needs.

EISCC provides a forum to educate, advocate, initiate, coordinate, and support through task forces and other means, to work for the common good, and to address human needs and improve the quality of life of the citizens living in the eastside communities of Bellevue, Kirkland, Issaquah, Renton, and Redmond