

EISCC General Meeting 3/12/24
12:00 Noon to 1:30PM
St. Margarets Episcopal Church, Bellevue

Linda Hillesheim, Past President, presiding.
Opening Prayer
Acknowledgement of living on Indigenous Lands

Introductions
Election of Kevin Folkman as Secretary; Pauline Ohare, Board Member over
Communications.

Treasurer Report, not reported at this time.

Congregations for Kids Report: Nancy Jacobs told of an email from homeless mother fleeing domestic violence asking for help with school supplies. Primary focus is on at-home supplies for students. Expanding into gift cards and gas cards, 200 cards delivered to BSD last week in pilot program.

Faith Action Network, report to be forwarded later.
Hopelink Report will be provided later.

Spotlight, Eastside Human Services Forum, Elisa Peterson, Executive Director, told of an upcoming open house event in April/May time frame. June 13 event about incorporating Equity/Diversity/Inclusion in policy formation.

EISCC Board is looking for volunteers to arrange for monthly general meeting lunches, can be reimbursed for expenses.

Spotlight, David Bowling, CEO at Eastside Community Development Forum (ECDF). Mission is to bring together various sectors to address complex social challenges, such as homelessness and affordable housing. Aims to help coordinate the various resources in addressing these issues. Grew out of past experiences that involved business, government, and faith organizations. Need to have more accurate data to better serve these underserved populations. Described HMIS, Homelessness Management Information Systems, as a means of getting data to support policy formation and execution. Advocating for changes in state law to better address these issues, including substance abuse. Trying to overcome siloing of data from different organizations to better serve their client populations.

Main Presentation, Eco Thrive Cooperative Community Village in Burien, Denise Henrickson, Board President.

www.ecothrivehousing.org

Eco Thrive Housing came out of an art-based effort to get information on the needs of the homeless. Food, shelter, jobs, along with art, music, entertainment. One result, the idea to have affordable housing units with small private space coupled with generous shared space to build communities that are market rate in cost but involved ownership by residents. Struggled with other cities but found an open ear in Burien for making the zoning changes needed. Shared drawings and models that showed these housing units surrounded by food gardens, tool libraries, and other community resources. Highly accessible, lower construction costs (no cranes, no elevators). Cottages are studio, single, and two bedroom units, ranging from 300 to 600 square feet. They had very little opposition to their proposals from the surrounding community.

Ownership structure based on a Limited Equity Cooperative. Joint equity, need to qualify at 50% of median income level. Individuals can sell and take their equity with them. Built on principles of framework, shared identity, equitable distribution of benefits, fair and Inclusive, and transparency (monitoring of behavior). Goal is to create a culture of hope. Financially, it may not be self-sustaining, and may require continuous subsidies or donations.

Question asked about vetting process for residents, those with criminal records, substance abuse, etc. There is a cooperative community agreement that must be abided by.

Final Notes:

April 6th, memorial for Ann (didn't catch last name), former secretary of EISCC.

Adam Smith, upcoming town hall meeting at Sammamish High School, March 17th
11:00AM to 12:30PM.

Bellevue Safe Parking at Lincoln Center under development. Half of the unhoused population are living in their cars. There will be a need for volunteers and other assistance. See <https://bellevuewa.gov/resident-resources/homelessness-bellevue/safe-parking-pilot>.