

EISCC General Meeting Minutes, May 14, 2024 12:00 Noon

Introductions

Attendees: Online 12

In person 18

Conducting, Mark Griffith

Reports:

Secretary – Minutes of general meetings are online usually within a week of the meeting.

Congregations for Kids: Nancy Jacobs reported that CFK will help an estimated 2,000 students this next school year. They are adding a picture dictionary in every kindergarten backpack, plus some dual language dictionaries will be made available for students who need them..

Treasurer – Warren Marquardson, \$165,000 total in all accounts, \$154,000 allocated for Congregations for Kids.

Linda Hillsheim reported for Eastside Human Service Forum. There will be an online webinar Thursday the 16th, 3:30 to 5:00 PM to share information on their work with data collection in service to community members. There will be an in-person meeting June 25th about how to turn Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion into action in our congregations.

SPOTLIGHT: "Legislative Wins and Upcoming Initiatives" with Faith Action Network (FAN) Partnership Coordinator Elizabeth Dickinson fanwa.org
2024 Legislative Report. FAN worked to advocate for legislation for feeding the hungry, Free school meals, Senior food resources.

\$79 million allocated.

\$28.4 million for health equity for immigrants.

\$32 million for services for immigrants that do not qualify for federal resettlement funds.

\$127 million to increase housing trust funds.

\$60 million for homeless services.

\$1.5 million for security grants for non-profits and faith communities.

Bias Incidents hotline supports those who are victims of hate crimes.

Plans to continue working for affordable housing in future sessions..

Three voter initiatives were passed by the legislature and three are being added to the ballot for voter approval. FAN recommends voting no on all three.

FAN Spring Summit June 9, 3-5PM

Main Presentation: "Looking at Eviction" with Imagine Housing Executive Director Yi Zhao. Focus on keeping people safely housed, and understanding the multiple nuances of eviction from various viewpoints. imaginehousing.org
Imagine Housing currently has 15 properties with a total of 630 units. The Eastside needs to build 4000 affordable housing units per year over the next 20 years, but actual build is just 200 units per year. Most new housing is luxury units in downtown areas, not affordable units. Imagine Housing currently works only on the Eastside, will not expand its scope

Regarding evictions, Zhao recommended the book *Evicted* (Matthew Desmond, Crown Publishing, 2016), about families in Milwaukee.

There are two kinds of eviction, one for non-payment and one for behavioral issues. Locally, the legal landscape has changed. It used to take only three to four months from serving an eviction notice to getting a sheriff's order to evict. Courts are currently backed up 4 to 6 months, Sheriff department also backed up, so the actual eviction process takes now nine to ten months. For behavioral issues a tenant gets 3 days notice. Imagine Housing is last stop for many, so evictions usually end up putting someone on the streets, and they try to work all possible avenues to prevent having to take legal action until as a last resort. Hiring private security is becoming more of a factor, is expensive, and has no legal standing, so police still need to be involved. Tenant protection is very important. There is a lot of history of abuse of landlord-tenant relations. It is difficult for Imagine Housing to find the right balance between compassion and protection of property and other tenants. Evictions should not be the first step, so they focus on finding other sources of support. Imagine Housing may not be the right fit for all tenants seeking resources. Imagine is not transitional housing but can be permanent. Funding to help prevent evictions for non-payment help has dried up since Covid funds ran out. Cash for asking for voluntary leaving funds are limited. They try to vet potential tenants well to make sure renters have the necessary resources. As to King County section 8 vouchers, only 25 out of one hundred actually get the help needed..

Questions: Have you experienced organized resistance to programs like Imagine Housing? Organized resistance isn't mostly targeting families, but more towards projects that deal with single tenants.

How many clients does a case worker have? Every building will be different, based on the source of funding (each government entity has different rules, and different size families have different needs).

How confident is Imagine with their management companies? They just fired a property management firm, and dealing with difficulties around changes in tenant circumstances.

Does in-house management work better than hiring outside property managers?

Difficult to analyze, depends on individual properties and funding requirements.

What is their direction going forward? Homeless housing is difficult, Imagine is not set up to do high percentage of homeless housing (24 hour supervision, other issues around meeting community needs).

Questions from online participants?

Does eviction make it hard to get new lease agreements? Less than it used to be.

Other announcements:

Elizabeth Maupin wants to hold an interfaith lament service, regarding the conflicts in Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, and others.

St. Lukes hosting a pride event on June 22nd .

Sophia Way sharing needs (Linda H)

Zoom Chat (edited for readability):

From Amabely Gonzalez to Everyone:

Hi Im Amabely Gonzalez Human Services Administrator from Bellevue Life Spring and Violet Norton is with me both from BLS

From Michael - St Louise - Bellevue to Everyone:

I am Michael Johnson, from St Louise Catholic Church in Bellevue, WA

From Mary-Alyce Burleigh to Everyone:

Mary-Alyce Burleigh, Holy Spirit Lutheran. Kirkland.

From Ericka Belmontes to Everyone:

Hello Everyone, My name is Ericka Belmontes from Bellevue Lifespring. Email ericka@bellevuelifespring.org

From Art Mabbott, All Saints Episcopal, Bellevue. to Everyone:

Art Mabbott, art@mabbott.org

From Michael - St Louise - Bellevue to Everyone:

michael@stlouse.org

From Brooke Buckingham (she/her), Redmond to Everyone:

Brooke Buckingham, bbuckingham@redmond.gov

From Amabely Gonzalez to Everyone:

Also Maria Ferrari, from Bellevue LifeSping is join us

From Nancy Jacobs, C4K to Everyone:

Nancy Jacobs, Congregations for Kids, www.congregations4kids.org, bnjacobs@frontier.com

From Barbara de Michele to Everyone:

Barbara de Michele, Eastside Human Services Forum

From Joyce Kidd-Miller to Everyone:

Joyce Kidd-Miller Baha'is of King County North joycekm@nwlink.com

From Art Mabbott, All Saints Episcopal, Bellevue. to Eastsideinterfaith(direct message):

If you want to include the online folks, the speaker must stand next to the computer. Otherwise, we don't hear what is being said.

From Rev. Charles Perry to Everyone:

I'm down for the Lament Service

(Several online comments about hearing questions, and camera placement at St. Margarets)

Meeting ended at 1:30PM