

Town Hall February 24, 2019

Kathy Pruitt opened the meeting. In attendance were, Karen Ray, Thad and Jo Curtz, Al and Sadie Gilliom, Jamie and Carol Rainwood, Karen Tvedt, Corey Passons and Penny Purkerson.

Minutes were read and accepted

Ministers report by Corey (See Addendum 1)

He also reported on a Tour of the Holy Land that will take him away this Spring from April 22 to May 4. He will miss only 1 Sunday and that Celebration is already assigned and covered for leadership.

Budget Report: Jan Rocks was out of town but sent the following info. Our shortfall is now only \$600!

YCPC Report by Karen Ray

No big changes since my last report. Class sizes remain consistent.

She is still searching for some ready-made Middle School curriculum that would work for us. There is a new curriculum available, by the same author as the curriculum for the grade schoolers. She is inclined to purchase the curriculum in the hopes that we can modify it and add some thought-provoking discussion appropriate for our kids.

Social Justice Committee by Karen Tvedt:

She shared the Tiny House Study Report. The City of Olympia looked at TUCO's parking area and saw problems with privacy and utilities etc. TUCO may partner with Unity and Evergreen Christian, to use their west side spaces. We could join them in this effort including building the houses and supporting as needed.

Fruit Sale report by Karen Ray (See addendum 2)

After 40 years of doing this fund raiser, we need to re-energize this effort, if we continue. Karen is looking at a 4 or 5 person committee to evaluate if we should: 1. continue, 2. drop this activity or 3. Change to something else. All members may be surveyed to determine commitment. We need leaders by May of this year for a fruit sale in 2019. June 9th was selected as the Town Hall report date for Karen's committee. Corey and Sadie and maybe Carol will be on the committee!

Call Shepherd report by Hilarie Hauptman

- Spring CIC Fort Flagler Retreat Coordinator is Betty Hauser. If you would like to learn how to organize CIC semi-annual retreats, please sign up to Betty's apprentice.
- We have three-quarters of a cohort team to organize the CIC monthly Community Kitchen activities when longtime Coordinator Kathy Kinard steps down this July

2019. To date we have three of the four quarters, led by Bethanie Sand and Corey Passons, Carol and Jamie Rainwood, Gene Maltzef and Alan Hardcastle with each duo being responsible for a three month period. Kathy will be available for mentoring in the coming months.

Donations Committee report by Corey

The CIC Donation Form is being revised as per recommendations from the Donations Committee, (Hilarie H. Corey P, Pat S, and Leeann T.)

Special Projects could also go on that form in the future. They will revise the text and bring back another idea.

Kathy P reported on the **Unallocated funds** in the Benevolence Treasurers balances. There is \$761.24 of unallocated money that we decided to either put it into the community kitchen if we don't do the fruit sale or roll it into the pastors fund if we do do the fruit sale.

- We discussed using some of our capital funds in CD savings, to purchase 20 or more large print **Rise up /Singing books**. Steering circle was given power to okay the purchase when the best price is found. Penny will follow up.

Rug replacement discussion:

To make a focal point and bring some focus and enhanced atmosphere to our space, to sit closer to each other by having a circle of flapjack chairs in front of the chairs row. We decided to open the seating up for some experimenting with different ways to sit. We'll look at :

How many chairs would be in the circle?

Who would sit on the floor?

How to store it?

How to keep it clean?

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Penny P Town Hall Clerk

addendum 1

At the CIC Annual Meeting on January 27th I gave a short reflection that culminated with an open inquiry to the question of, "For whom else are we?" This question is an invitation to extend our imagination and care beyond the circle of community who attend CIC or are members. While we already do this in a myriad of ways, but I am interested in the collective expressions we will either sustain, via Community Kitchen and Fruit Sale, and/or develop anew. Toward this end I want to let the community know that I am exploring curriculum offered by the UCC designed to help communities explore white privilege. What does white privilege have to do with "For whom else are we?"

My interest here is to develop means of understanding ourselves, to uncloak the assumptions that undergird our community's sense of identity. This process could help us establish clarity in vision for the ways in which we hold and apply ourselves in the wider culture beyond our circle. The work of engaging white privilege reveals obstacles to fullness that can sometimes be invisible to the holders of that privilege. In the coming weeks I will do a deeper analysis of this material to then determine if it is a program that I would facilitate between June and December of this year.

Somewhat related is the issue of appropriation.... Earlier this year there were two events that provoked feedback from the community about possible cultural appropriation within CIC. The first episode was related to the use of a Native American chant that was written by a non-Native, white person. The second episode was the occurrence of the Day of the Dead celebration held in CIC. Each of these occurrences of feedback offered careful and respectful analysis. In the coming months I am going to develop a framework for a community conversation that will be held at Ft. Flagler on Saturday afternoon in which we as a community discuss appropriation. My hope is that we can make careful notes of the conversation and then distribute the notes toward the (possible) creation of a statement on appropriation developed and endorsed by CIC.

Finally, am looking forward to going to the St. Placid Priory for a little, one day retreat on this Monday. These are quarterly retreats that I fund from the professional expense account and are times of digital disconnect, reading, reflection, prayer, and a meeting with one of the sisters for a spiritual direction session.

Addendum 2

CIC "For the Sake of the Whole World" Fruit Sale Fundraiser Continuation Question

Proposal: Solicit 5 or more CIC members to be part of a fruit sale committee that will meet 2-3 times from March-May. Our task is to examine the pros and cons of continuing the fruit sale and to explore alternative fundraisers or the ramifications of eliminating a "for the sake of the whole world" fundraiser altogether. This might involve creating a survey to send out to the CIC community. By the final meeting, The Fruit Group should have reached a decision about whether to:

proceed with the Fruit Sale in 2019
replace it with something else, or
eliminate a fundraiser.

If the decision is to continue with the fruit sale or begin a new fundraising venture, the Fruit Group should identify lead organizers, and ideas for creating widespread CIC community support for the fundraiser. Karen R. is willing to lead the Fruit Group effort from March-May, and to provide assistance to a new Fruit Sale leadership team in 2019. We will need entirely new leadership in 2019, with the possible exception of technology support. I think Thad is willing to provide that in the future, but that needs to be confirmed. If the decision is to eliminate a fundraiser altogether, the Fruit Group should determine how CIC can continue to financially support the monthly Community Kitchen dinner costs. (We currently have enough surplus in the

benevolence fund to support the kitchen for 1-2 years).

Background Information:/Context:

Fruit Sale Sales have dramatically decreased in recent years, for several reasons

- Loss of big sellers

We've lost some big sellers (such as Tom Cook/DOE, Helena & Rob, and the Curtz's) and haven't replaced them with new big sellers

- Poorly planned transitions in sales systems

Our transition to electronic sales largely eliminated the person-to-person sales from years past. Potential buyers are much more likely to become buyers if they receive a phone call or email from a friend

- Community Investment in the Fruit Sale has Waned Over the Years

Because sales are depersonalized, CIC members often don't know if their friends are buying fruit, and fruit sale organizers don't know who is selling fruit. Therefore there is no accountability for CIC sellers. If they don't sell, no one will know (but our bottom line will be lower).

Do we want to continue with the fruit sale?

- Main reasons for the sale are to raise money for charities, to build community within CIC, to expose the larger Olympia community to CIC

- Many people both within the CIC community and beyond our CIC community, look forward to the sale every year.

- Even if we do away with the fruit sale and helping community organizations, we currently have a commitment to the Community Kitchen and need \$1200/year to purchase food for our monthly meals. We would need another way to raise this money if the fruit sale disappears.

- The fruit sale requires a significant amount of effort on the part of the organizers. The amount of work involved in netting \$8000 is not much more than the amount of work involved in raising \$5000. But raising more money makes the effort more justifiable! And increased community participation lightens the load of the organizers and

Do we want to consider a different way to make money "for the sake of the whole world?"

- Sales of Gene's fish is an easy way to make money, but there are limits to how much fish Gene can donate. Are there other items we can sell among our own members that have a high profit margin? Can we have some form of a CIC "auction" for members' services and products? This would still require significant coordination.

- We could ask every CIC family to donate a certain amount and raise the money to give away that way. If 100 families donated, we'd make \$50.

Should we try to re-energize the fruit sale?

- We could do a fruit sale kick-off on a Sunday in September/October and spend a few minutes during a Celebration talking about the fruit sale and having everyone fill out a commitment form. The form can include a mock "check" where people can write in the amount they pledge to raise. They can also list the names of people they will sell to, and volunteer for other jobs (driver, money collector, etc.) on the form. When orders come in, the fruit sale coordinator can match the buyers to the sellers' list, to reinstitute some sense of accountability. Sellers would be credited for the orders of buyers on their list.

- Make it easy for people to advertise on social media with Facebook-ready blurbs, pdf's of posters, etc.

- Be sure beneficiaries know, when they fill out the beneficiary request form, that they are expected to sell within their community

- Reach out to newer CIC members to give them information about the sale so they are comfortable selling.