

CIC Townhall

January 9, 2022, at 6:45 pm

Zoom Meeting

Welcome and Agenda Review: Sarah Huntington opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

Attendance: Jo Curtz, Betty & Dick Hauser, Sarah Huntington, Patti Logan, Karen Lohmann, Corey Passons, Penny Purkerson, Carol & Jamie Rainwood, Karen Ray, Jan Rocks, Karen Tvedt.

Review of the December Townhall Meeting Notes: Karen Tvedt reviewed the December Townhall notes reminding folks that a brief summary will be published in Wavelinks and the full notes posted on the CIC website.

Racial Justice Centering: Corey offered the racial justice centering portion of the meeting which focused on the HEAL Act (SB 5141). This Act, promoted by "Front and Centered," focuses on environmental justice and outlines how state agencies should consider community needs and issues of environmental justice in their work.

Minister's Report-Corey Passons

- Spring and Fall retreats
 - I reserved Shelter #1 in Millersylvania for Saturday, May 21st. We have the shelter from 9:00 - 8:00 p.m. **Decision-Corey will reserve a shelter at Millersylvania for Sunday May 22nd which would allow us to do an outdoor celebration that day.**
 - I filled out and submitted the online application for a Labor Day retreat at the ELC retreat center at Millersylvania but have not heard back yet.
- CIC Finance Shepherd: Jacob Skeers has let Steering Circle know that he will not be able to continue with his training to become the next CIC Finance Shepherd. Steering Circle is doing outreach to some folks for possible interest in the position. Jan Rocks indicated that while she will support the role during this search (and will support the next person), she would like to end her Finance Shepherd role after the annual meeting.
- In-person celebrations: At this time, I am not planning on attempting to host an in-person celebration until at least February. Steering Circle and I will be watching the numbers and the trends with the most recent variant and likely do some community polling prior to scheduling another in-person celebration.
- Racial Justice Subcommittee work: These subcommittees have been at work and will be submitting various surveys to the community in the coming weeks and months. At least two of these groups will also be leading celebrations in the coming months as well.
- Lease with TUCO: We have renewed our lease with TUCO. While our space has changed somewhat, we have about the same amount of space and our rent did not increase for 2022.

Townhall Meeting Day-last month Townhall was held on Wednesday evening rather than Sunday after celebration and about the same number of people attended. Sarah raised a

question about whether we might want to consider moving Townhall to a weeknight. Among the considerations discussed were making the meetings accessible for as many people as possible, especially those with children. On the other hand, it makes for a long night, especially celebration leaders and Steering Circle members. After discussion, we agreed that there was no clear consensus to change Townhall at this time.

Open and Affirming Statement Review and Approval-Corey provided an overview of the process that was used to review and update the old statement developed in 1983. After a period of 3-4 weeks of community review, the statement was revised to be more concise and incorporate feedback received. **Decision-there was full consensus in Townhall supporting the revised statement.** It will be published in the Wavelinks as well as on the CIC website, in the guidebook and other CIC materials.

Finance report-Jan Rocks

- Jan provided the 2021 financial report which shows a carry-over of \$3,591 from 2021 to 2022. We have \$59,142 in 2022 pledges and a draft budget of \$62,390 which is a shortage of \$3,248 (slightly less than the carry-over amount). There was some discussion about what we should do with the difference (\$343) and the decision was made to move it to the unanticipated expense line.
- **Decision-there was consensus about forwarding the proposed budget (with \$343 being moved to unanticipated expenses) for approval at annual meeting on January 30.**

Call Shepherd Report-Carol Rainwood

- I am still collecting descriptions of Calls and updating the Call list with a goal of having it done by Annual meeting on January 30th.
- Ramona is stepping down from her role as Celebration Set-up Coordinator, so we need to fill that Call once we have a plan to return to in-person Celebrations.
- Teasy is stepping away from her beloved role as Amen Caller, and we will miss her when we restart meeting at TUCO. Perhaps someone else will feel moved to take up this Call!

Children's Program-Miriam Sterlin

- Here we are in 2022! December brought us Play Packs and Zoom Room stories themed on Advent, Hanukah, and Christmas. Preschoolers and Elementary classes made their own Advent Wreaths complete with LED lighting, make-at-home paper menorahs, received dreidels for playing The Dreidel Game together, and more.
- At the in-person Celebration there were 9 children ranging in age from 2-13, and all were engaged with decorating winter ornaments, playing with glitter playdough to take home, coloring pages, and winter themed mad libs. Though we had a bit of a concern with the news that one child in attendance did test positive for Covid after attending the Celebration, no further cases were noted (as of my knowledge). Children sanitized, maintained a distance of 3+ ft while masked, and further distanced if they chose to eat a snack.

- Christmas saw many youths participating in the pageant and program, and what a joy! Thank you to Karen Ray for coordinating the pageant, to Penny for the music, and Corey for all the work you put in to bring it all together!
- January brings us a chance to bring in the new year with acknowledging that our Western Gregorian calendar is not the only calendar in our world! Children received Play Packs with information and activities about Lunar calendars, the Hebrew calendar, and the Mayan calendar. The craft activity this week was to create a mandala or picture of what you hope for this coming year. Painting is initially done with Black glue-paint, and then filled in with watercolors which dry for a stunning effect.
- In the coming weeks we will be attempting again to schedule an Escape Room activity for the Youth Group. Their strong preference is an in-person activity, or an activity that involves the others without using screens; I will be adding in a YG Pack delivery that features rotating cumulative activities. Pictures, stories, and a shared journal will be rotated between houses, and when the rotation is complete a Zoom Room will be scheduled so they can check in and see what they have created as a group!
- Sadly, Emelyn Keller has stepped down from the position of Preschool Teacher, but gladly we may see her with us again if and when we meet in person!
- Please get in touch with any questions, ideas, comments, or concerns.

Connections Committee-no report

Community Support Team-no report

Social Justice Committee-Betty reported that shelter lunches are still in limbo and expressed appreciation for those who donated toward the opening of Unity Commons. The SJC will lead the MLK Celebration on January 16th.

Parking Lot: Benevolence Fund future; some discussion at Steering Circle about the fact that retreat funds historically have gone through the Benevolence Fund. For future discussion, should retreat dollars be shown in the operating budget rather than the Benevolence Fund?

Dates for future SC and TH meetings:

- **Annual Meeting:** 1/30/22
- **February:** Steering Circle-2/23/22 at 7 pm; Townhall-2/27/22 after celebration
- **March/April:** Steering Circle-3/30/22 at 7 pm; Townhall-4/3/22 after celebration
- **April/May:** Steering Circle-4/27/22 at 7 pm; Townhall-5/1/22 after celebration
- **June:** Steering Circle-6/1/22; Townhall-6/5/22 after celebration