

CIC Townhall

April 3, 2022, at 6:45 pm

Zoom Meeting Notes

Welcome and Agenda Review: Sarah Huntington opened the meeting with a review of the agenda.

Attendance: Julie Baker, Jo & Thad Curtz, Kristine Forbes, Sarah Huntington, Karen Lohmann, Corey Passons, Carol & Jamie Rainwood, Karen Ray and Karen Tvedt.

Racial Justice Centering: Jamie Rainwood offered powerful stories/quotes demonstrating our country's legacy of racism including one featuring an ad on behalf of first US president George Washington offering a \$10 award for the apprehension of Oney Judge, a 20 year-old slave woman. From the writings of Langston Hughes, Jamie shared potent images of justice as a blind goddess and a clenched fist from generations of anger.

Review of the December Townhall Meeting Notes: Karen Tvedt provided highlights from the February 27 Townhall meeting. Full minutes are posted on the CIC website.

Contract Renewal: By consensus, participants approved (and celebrated) renewal of Corey Passons' annual contract.

Minister's Report-Corey began by expressing appreciation to CIC and the Steering Circle. He also spoke about the uniqueness of CIC, e.g., meeting shoulder-to-shoulder in a circle, which influences the speed at which are comfortable returning to in-person, indoor celebrations. *The following is from Corey's written report.*

- *Ongoing Racial Justice and Racial Equity Work:* We are approaching a year to when the initial three subcommittees began work on the focus areas of: discernment of community privilege, racial audit of the CIC canon, and a racial justice inquiry into CIC as an organization. Each of these committees has found their own path of energy and focus stemming from the initial scaffolding of suggested structure. This work has been ongoing and thorough and in the coming months each of these committees will be having expressions of sharing and inquiry into the community. These efforts are part of a process and commitment that is supported by the CIC Racial Justice Initiative and can be seen as a particular moment of expression in an ongoing effort.
- *In-Person Celebrations:* The in-person meeting at Burfoot in late March was well-attended and there was a sense of ease and joy in the gathering. Some people maintained more distance than others, but we danced and held hands and sang with the majority of people not wearing masks. We have about five more outdoor gatherings before the end of the year and Corey is hopeful these will suffice in meeting the long-abated sense of proximity and community. It is TBD if there is energy and appetite for in-person gatherings this spring, however.
- *Re-Gathering:* While it is uncertain if we mobilize for in-person, indoor gatherings this spring, Corey wants to assume we are doing so in the Fall. With that we will need to

consider if we become a hybrid community (that is, we meet in person AND offer access to the celebrations via Zoom simultaneously). Offering hybrid services is complex and will require commitment and dialogue from the community and support. He will not be able to attend to the needs of operating and maintaining the technology for hybrid celebrations when or if that is implemented. Corey can offer assistance in developing it (as he did for the December 12th celebration) but we will need CIC support, or contracted tech support, to maintain and perform this offering during celebrations. In addition, we need to determine if we offer any additional recorded elements of the celebration beyond audio. He cannot offer services for management and procurement of video offerings of celebrations but am willing to maintain my service of audio recordings of celebrations. We will need to discuss this in the coming months prior to the summer break. *Thad noted unknowns about what will happen over the next few months re Covid.*

- *Other:* Youth and Children's educators in the Fall and community support; possible additional hours needed for Miriam Sterlin to solicit and manage the search for educators. Ongoing need for a Finance Shepherd. *A question was raised about Miriam's hours. Nika Keller's Treasurer report suggests that Miriam's hours are tracking to what CIC budgeted.*

Children's Program-Miriam Sterlin *(from Miriam's written report)*

Here are the goings-on for the CIC Youth and Children's Program, 16 children and teens: Drew & Clara, Frank & Rose, Silas & Jude, Justine & Lievin, Rayna & Lynn, Aria & Piper, Reed, Jackson, and Isaiah. Also on the radar but not currently active are Tre and Asher.

- **Infants:** Clara receives a baby gift each week in recognition and support of her joining our community. Gifts include tiny baby socks, headbands, and accessories intended to be a support and a joy!
- **Toddlers:** Drew and Rose are included in the Play Packs, with age appropriate activities and crafts. This includes coloring pages, stories about holidays intended to be read as a family, playdough crafts, painting, and more. Rose attends the Zoom story-time each week, and it was a joy to have the opportunity to connect with her in person at Burfoot Park! Our contact through Zoom created a sense of familiarity!
- **Preschool:** Frank, Jude, and Justine. What fun to have Justine join us for the in-person celebration at Burfoot Park! We chatted boisterously while playing on the playground, and she enjoyed coloring and story-time in person. Justine's family continues to be interested in being in-person but does not feel that remote celebrations fit their family. Jude and Frank are regular attendees of the Zoom story-time, and all children receive crafts, activities, and stories in their Play Packs.
- **Grade School:** Aria & Piper, Lynn, Silas, and Leivin. Grade Schoolers also receive Play Pack stories, crafts, activities, and are invited to attend the Zoom story-time. Materials are geared more toward grade level reading, and Lynn comes to story-time every other week. Leivin, Aria, and Piper are not part of remote activities, but do engage with Play Packs. Overall themes in the past weeks have included Lunar New Year, Spring Equinox, T B'Shevat, Purim, and this week has children creating cards to send to elders and CIC members recovering from illness or surgery. Thank you to Annie Hankins for sparking this wonderful idea of sending cards!

- **Youth Group:** Rayna, Reed, Jackson, and Isaiah. Scheduling in the busy lives of teens continues to prove tricky, but we are not giving up! This spring holds promise for hikes led by Keeva McManus, and a trip to an Escape Room. Hang on, it is coming! We will get there!
- **Teachers/Hiring:** Keeva is on board for a once-a-month excursion with the Youth Group (when schedules align). Her paperwork needs to be completed, but she has been reviewed and recommended by the Connections Committee over the past half-year of this process.
 - Erich Brown expressed interest in working with the Youth Group in person. He is open to continuing conversations when we decide our community is ready to meet in person.
 - Miriam will be connecting with Lara from TUCO about children’s program educators.

Call Shepherd Report-Carol Rainwood.

- Gratitude to Karen Ray for accepting the call of Phone List Compiler to update the list for this year and send the information to Scott to publish.
- Another Call that is still waiting for that perfect person is the CIC Facebook Page Updater. We need someone who is comfortable with Social Media and would like to take this on.
- Carol noted that she is trying to get a clear idea of what the Welcome Committee does, and how this differs from the role of Greeters and Phone List Compiler. Karen Ray indicated that she has a description from 2017 that she will send to Carol.

Finance Report-Based on Nika Keller’s Treasurer report, our finances seem to be on track. Sarah noted that for January and February, our expenditures averaged \$5,525.38 a month; with an annual budget of \$62,733, 1/12 of the annual CIC budget is \$5,227.35. Our average monthly expenditures are slightly higher than the expected monthly average because our February expenditures include our full UCC Mission/Social Justice payment (\$1,760) and because average expenses are lower in the summer, e.g., we don’t pay rent to TUCO in July and August.

Connections Committee-no report this month

Community Support Team-Sarah reported based on communication with Sabra Hull. The team is looking for feedback from the CIC community about interest in supporting this expression of community. Based on a request in Wavelinks, 12 people responded to the team’s request to complete a short survey. To increase the number of respondents, Corey will coordinate with Sabra about the possibility of sending the survey request via direct email to CIC members.

Social Justice Committee-Karen reminded folks that Hunger Walk is planned at St. Martin University on May 1, 2022. Information about participating is in Wavelinks. People wanting to walk on May 1 should contact Betty Hauser.

Revised CIC Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation-Sarah (with Karen Ray). Karen Ray (thanks Karen!) drafted a revised version of CIC Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to reflect current circumstances including our name (which was changed in the early 1990s) and governance

structure as it has evolved over the years. Participants reviewed the draft Bylaws and made a couple of suggestions about how Membership is described and the role of the Finance Shepherd. Corey will make these changes in the draft. Through an article in Wavelinks, we will encourage members to review and comment on the draft documents. The revised Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation will be on the May 1 Townhall agenda for approval.

Frequency and Timing of Townhall Meetings-Sarah: One of the issues that has arisen in our search for a new Finance Shepherd relates to attending both Steering Circle and Townhall meetings and difficulties with sequential Celebration and Townhall meetings (especially on zoom). The Steering Circle wonders about doing Townhall meetings every six weeks and perhaps alternating between Sunday after Celebration and a week-day evening. The sense of the group is that we should look at the calendar and map out meeting dates based on what's needed, i.e., there may be times when six weeks between Townhall meetings might work while in the lead up to annual meeting, we may need more frequent meetings. Several people noted that it is hard to do Celebration and Townhall back-to-back on zoom, but perhaps more workable when we're meeting in person. Steering Circle will discuss these issues further at its next meeting.

Retreats/Celebrations-Sarah and Corey

- Corey noted that our upcoming in-person retreats and celebrations are now posted on the CIC website and in Wavelinks.
- We agreed to shift reunion Sunday to September 4th to allow for the possibility of a retreat on either the second or third weekend in September. Corey will follow-up about the availability of retreat space those weekends.
- Easter Celebration: We will meet indoors at the Grange. We agreed that those attending will wear masks indoors (except when leading parts of the celebration or sitting eating). Hand sanitizer or wipes will be available; individual cups and pre-broken bread will be used for communion; Ted will be asked to make the spiral dance as Covid-safe as possible; people who want to eat outside will be encouraged to bring chairs. Corey will check with Miriam about whether an easter egg hunt is planned (Sarah is doing egg dying the day before so she should have eggs to contribute).

Finance Shepherd Call-Sarah reiterated that we're still looking for someone to fill the Finance Shepherd call and have taken steps to make the job more doable including having a separate Pledge Shepherd (Penny Purkerson has agreed to take this on) and trying to reduce the number of Steering Circle and Townhall meetings. Thad Curtz offered to assume the Finance Shepherd role. Carol agreed to send Thad the new Finance Shepherd job description.

Parking Lot: Benevolence Fund Planning

Dates for future SC and TH meetings (these are subject to possible change based on follow-up Steering Circle discuss):

- **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

