

CIC Townhall

May 1, 2022, at 6:45 pm

Zoom Meeting Notes

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

Attendance: Thad Curtz, Sarah Huntington, Corey Passons, Carol and Jamie Rainwood, Karen Ray, Kathy Pruitt, Penny Purkerson, Leeann Tourtillott and Betty Hauser.

Racial Justice Centering: Corey Passons shared about a difficult discussion that took place at the recent UCC Pacific Northwest Conference's annual meeting. A review of the budget led to a protracted discussion about the racial equity line item added in recent years. Was it enough? Who should determine how the funds are allocated? Should funds be donated to institutions with problematic equity histories? The discussion was respectful, but emotional and messy and unresolved, and the discussion, and the budget, will need revisiting.

Review of the April Townhall Meeting Notes: Sarah provided a quick review of the April 3 Townhall meeting minutes. Full minutes are posted on the CIC website.

Minister's Report:

- *In-Person Celebrations:* We will meet May 22 at Millersylvania for a day-long retreat. Corey will ask for suggestions of activities to do on that day (batik, community discussions, etc.) in upcoming Wavelinks and during announcements at upcoming Celebrations. Hal and Donna Spencer will lead a Celebration at Priest Point Park next Sunday, May 8.
- *Re-Gathering:* The community needs to determine soon if we want to commit to an intention to regather in-person in the fall, because doing so will require that we hire teachers for our children's program. Miriam Sterlin will need help from the community to determine staffing needs, advertise positions, and evaluate potential hires. Some possibilities for CIC's gatherings in the fall include alternating between in-person and Zoom Celebrations and incorporating outdoor gatherings into the mix. In the event we meet indoors and offer an on-line participation option, Corey will need technical support (possibly paid technical support) to facilitate this hybrid option.
- *Community Support Team:* We received a good response to the last survey. The team will share the data with the community once they have digested it.

Children's Program: Corey Passons (*bullets below from Miriam's written report*)

- The Children's Program is holding steady through the spring, with Play Packs for youngers, preschoolers, and grade schoolers, and activities in continued planning for the Youth Group. Recent activities for all ages have included:
- Egg dyeing party hosted by Sarah! Having rented the Rose Garden shelter at Squaxin Park, we were able to host families for egg dyeing. With Sarah leading the way, and Miriam supporting, children and adults dyed eggs to take home and eggs for the hunt on Easter. Attendees included: Marla, Frank & Rose; Annie & Reed; Miriam, Rayna & Lynn, and a few CIC adults. Hearty and joyful thanks to Sarah for cooking eggs, bringing seeds and planters for families to walk away with flower starts, and putting together a colorful and joyful event!
- Easter saw a large turnout of CIC children and families of CIC members, with many children taking story and craft time during the celebration. Children colored treat bags and hunted for treasure hidden expertly by Eric Hardcastle. With Eric's creative just-right challenge, children were hunting for some time, and enjoying it thoroughly!

- I, Miriam, will be unavailable for the 30-minute Zoom Story room some Sundays as I prepare for my musical to come to stage at OFT. On these nights, I send families video read-aloud stories to continue to support child engagement during celebration.
- Further conversation will be had about in-person gathering, renewed teacher recruitment, and what the future will look like as we transition with changes to Covid protocol. I look forward to letting the summer marinate these steps for a hearty fall stew!

From Corey- We need to explore ways to support Miriam with outreach for teachers, and help her think about staffing needs, especially given some uncertainty about which families will actually show up for in-person meetings.

Finance Report: Thad Curtz

- Thad presented a spreadsheet of the CIC 2022 Income & Expenses to-date, using the same format that Jan Rocks used previously. It shows that Corey and Miriam's salary expenses are on track (we are ¼ through the year and have spent ¼ of the budgeted salary amount). Generally, expenses are on track, although some line items have spent more, and some have spent less, than 25% of the line- item budget. This variability is due to the fact that some expenses are paid in lump sums, and some expenses are lower in the summer.
- We do not have current information about pledges, and whether they are coming in as anticipated. That information will be brought to the June Townhall. It was noted that we need to ensure pledges are on track before we pursue the hiring of teaching staff.
- There was a conversation about the cost of a booth for the Pride event. While the cost has not yet been determined, Townhall approved giving Betty Hauser permission to apply for a booth and pay up to \$250 for a booth.
- There was a discussion about the possibility of CIC increasing our contribution to UCC, in recognition and support of UCC's expenditures on behalf of racial equity. While we will not be increasing our support for this current year (since our budget is already set), we can raise this for consideration in the 2023 budget.
- Betty proposed providing more funding for Miriam, since she is acting in the capacity of teachers, positions that are funded but unstaffed, and also because she may need to work into the summer. Sarah asked Corey to discuss this with Miriam and offer a proposal at the next Townhall.

Call Shepherd Report: Carol Rainwood

- Thank you to Corey for volunteering to update and maintain CIC's FaceBook page!
- Karen R. provided an old description of the Welcoming Committee. This information will be helpful when we re-gather in person.

Connections: no report

Community Support Team: no report

Social Justice Committee: Betty Hauser

- The Interfaith Works Garden Party is set for June 21 at 5:50 at Huber's Gasthaus.
- The City of Olympia has chosen Habitat for Humanity as the contractor for the construction on Boulevard Road. H4H will build 100-110 units of housing for individuals and families making 50-80% of the area median income.
- SJC would like permission from Townhall to request community donations of \$400 to fund 40 lunches for unsheltered individuals. The lunches will be created and individually packaged by GRuB.

SJC is still discussing the possibility of having volunteers make the lunches, to minimize the expense. However, the need to individually package the meals is a large part of the expense. There was a discussion about whether SJC needs additional approval to request donations from the community, since they received approval previously. Ultimately, Townhall approved Betty's request to solicit \$400 in donations from the community.

- Betty asked Townhall whether there was interest in ordering more CIC t-shirts. Corey said that he will put a notice in Wavelinks asking people to indicate their interest in purchasing a t-shirt.

By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation: We reviewed the Revisions to the Articles of Incorporation, and approved submitting it, with the following changes: adding Thad Curtz as Treasurer; changing the date of approval. We also reviewed the proposed updated By-Laws. Sarah expressed a desire to add the phrase "sexual orientation" to the statement that follows the CIC call. Many of the people who had drafted the original language were present at this Townhall and felt comfortable adding the phrase "sexual orientation" and deleting the word "sex" from the statement. We approved the By-Laws with these revisions to the statement, the addition of Thad as Treasurer, and a change to the approval date. Corey will make the requested changes, have Sarah sign the document, and submit it to the Secretary of State's office as soon as possible.

Scheduling for Steering Circle/Townhall: We revisited the discussion about experimenting with holding SC/TH every six weeks next year instead of monthly, and also explored the idea of alternating between Wednesday nights and Sunday nights for Townhall and having some Townhalls be virtual even after we resume in-person meetings. Several people expressed the opinion that Sunday night in-person Townhalls have the advantage that folks are already present, and meeting in person is more satisfying than meeting virtually. However, if meetings were on a weekday evening, the convenience of meeting virtually makes Zoom meetings the preference. Kathy Pruitt noted that in the past, Townhall would often have a very full agenda in the fall, but then take a break in December. Townhall would also often skip one or two meetings in the spring. So, maybe a more flexible schedule, in keeping with the yearly business agenda, could be implemented. We informally agreed that Steering Circle has the blessing of Townhall to experiment with Townhall scheduling next year, and that we can always revert to the status quo if the experiment isn't working well.

Upcoming celebrations and Fall Retreat: Corey reported that we are unable to secure dates at Millersylvania for anytime around Labor Day weekend. We brainstormed possibilities: St. Martin's University, Evergreen, Camp Solomon Schechter, Camp Thunderbird, Camp Robbinswold. Leeann volunteered to call these five sites and gather information. Corey noted that discussions about our outdoor Celebrations have been generally positive. He suggested that we incorporate some time to reflect on having more outdoor Celebrations in next year's Annual Meeting.

Benevolence Fund: Steering Circle is requesting the development of a small group to discuss how to fund the CIC Benevolence Fund. Carol Rainwood, Kathy P, and Leeann T volunteered to work on this, with input from Corey. They will work on this over the summer and have a proposed plan in early fall. Some considerations: incorporating the Benevolence Fund into the yearly budget, asking for Benevolence Fund donations when soliciting pledges, continuing with the salmon sale, hosting a community talent show and selling tickets/requesting financial donations.

Dates for future SC and TH meetings (these are subject to possible change based on follow-up Steering Circle discuss): June: Steering Circle-6/1/22; Townhall-6/5/22 after celebration