

Social Justice Action Committee 9/2/14

Attending: Wendy Smith, Anne Marinello, Richard Schramm, Akankha Perkins, Peter Rousmaniere

Welcoming Community

We were asked to come up with some Welcoming Community images.

Wendy reported how she brainstormed by selecting a sample of images from the internet. She sent them to the SJA committee, and to the welcoming committee of Wendy, Mary Jeanne, Bob Riccio, Anne Marinello. The most popular image sourced by Wendy was a tree.

Anne talked with Barbara Bartlett and they agreed this is bad time to promote a welcoming community image. Anne will bring it to the board. There is no sense of urgency tonight that the Board create an image in the near future.

Food Shelf

Anne had been tasked to explore when we can do to help the Food Shelf the most. Anne expects to talk with the Food Shelf this month. She did talk with Phyllis Arata-Myers and learned that CTWK was the first group to talk about Social Justice, and that they may want to do a church service on the topic of Food Justice.

Daniel is on the board, and Pru works at the Food Shelf on Saturday. Wendy makes the monthly announcements at end of the month and Anne Wynia delivers the collected food. Anne recommends that more information on the Food Shelf be included in the Quest. The Communications Committee will place something on the website.

Action: Anne to talk with the Food Shelf: how can we best help?

Short-term housing

Joanie Rothstein was going to talk with Robbie Blish and the Ottaquechee Foundation. Goal, find a place, and get a screening system. Anne does not know if this is too big for us now, beyond raising awareness.

Distribution Hub for fresh food to food shelves

Peter researched and found good contacts in FL, TX, CA and possibly NY. It appears there are useful models of fresh food sub-state regional food distribution programs. He asked Lauren to connect with the Food Shelf and the VT Food Bank before going forward. He did not hear from Lauren, so the project is on hold.

Sept 21 Climate Change event

Richard asks, should we do anything? Shall we make banners? Richard will reach out to people. CTWK and perhaps Sustainable Woodstock to do something. There was no clear consensus the committee should do anything,

Affordable housing – the Grange

Anne Marinello reported on this. Abutters, of which she is one, were notified, and some ground breaking in the month or two. Anne said mistakes were made in tone, attitude, and letters to the paper at the time the project was launched.

There will be community center there, according to Anne.

Life and Hope Association

Peter reported on LHA's fund raiser. He asked what people thought about LHA in the context of the North Chapel.

Anne said: concentric circles of local, national and international scope.... our eyes are lifted beyond our own needs. Not like your sending money to the Red Cross, we know where it is going. It is one international commitment that we are making.

Richard: what do we do when we raise more than the \$7K? SJA committee was making the case that if extra money goes there, it may not go somewhere else. Should we send the extra or hold for the next year. And hold for reserve. Say a crisis in a year when everyone gives a lot to another cause, and LHA fails to raise \$7K.

A proposal was raised and agreed to that the finance Committee to asked to address the issue of holding off surplus giving. Peter to write the Finance committee: Chris Lloyd. The SJA committee as such does not want a say on this. Our goal is to get clarity: when we go over on a fund raising, and to hold for future years and possibly for other purposes.

Action: Peter to write Chris.

Winter Agenda, other programs

Raised by Anne. We will discuss at the next meeting. Richard: we had talks after service. Maybe we should renew this program.

Action: we to discuss post service talks and a Winter agenda in our next meeting.