

August 3, 2023
Social Justice and Cring Commitee
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Ann K., Father John, Ann Madlung, Julie L., Julie M., Chris M., Margaret, Mary R., Mary H., Martha and Mary W.

Review of NNO on August 1st, 2023

The general consensus was that this evening went very well! Approximately 125 people in attendance with about 50% of them from the neighborhood. We used 2 tents that Progressive Baptist church lent us and we were given a large tent and had another smaller tent to use. The tents were very helpful with the light rain we had and to keep sun off areas where we had the welcome table, round tables to eat, and the food area.

- Hotdogs were relatively easy and everyone seemed to like them. Gave out about 130 hotdogs and cupcakes.
- Cupcakes were delicious, but were hard to get out of plastic holder.
- Make sure to have enough powdered lemonade mix. It was helpful to use the large orange dispenser/cooler.
- Bean bag/corn hole game was lots of fun.
- DJ Patrick did a great job. Will see if we can get a larger sound system or turn speakers around so that everyone can here the music
- Mary R. expressed a safety concern when people came into the church from the main doors to use the restroom, sometimes they exited through the double doors to the hallway into kitchen/Brioshi Hall. Her concern is that perhaps they would wander into the basement, etc. by way of the stairs that are in the hallway. Perhaps we can ensure that those who need to use the restroom enter and exit only through the center church doors and close off the double doors into kitchen hallway.
- All prizes/gift cards were well received. All but 1 gift card was picked up and will wait another week for winner to pick up otherwise we will give a call to the next in line.
- Made 50 bags to give away to children who attended. Gave away 30 and with the 20 remaining, 10 each will be given out to Merrick and Progressive folks with families. We received an abundance of items from parishioners that were used in these bags.
- Mailing letters to neighbors was a great idea as compared to going door to door with flyers.

Beacon Interfaith Housing Update

- Land Use Permits were voted upon and approved at the Maplewood City Council Meeting, July 10th. Good turnout by St. Pascal's Beacon team as well as other members from Beacon.

- Met Council Update-Met Council and CDC (Community Development) have agreed to move forward in negotiating a policy for project based vouchers. Beacon is asking for 30% of all vouchers be PBV's and Met Council/CDC are agreeing up to 20%. Will continue to engage in meetings to try and move the 20% closer to 30%. There will be another meeting at Met Council on August 21st at 4:00, where they are asking for many Beacon members to participate. More information to follow.
- Bill arranged a "Solid Ground" Tour this Thursday, August 10th at 10 AM at East Metro Place. Address is 3521 Century Ave. across from Century College near the Water Tower. Anree Aronson will be our Tour Guide. Contact Bill if you would like to attend.

Merrick Food Distribution

- We have a new banner, approximately 3 x 5 feet and will be put up on the near the corner of 3rd St. and White bear Ave to advertise the food distribution at St. Pascal's.
- Gave out 48 bags of groceries and made additional smaller bags for those who came after the 48 were distributed.

Merrick Backpack Drive

- Put Merrick Backpack flyers in each Merrick food distribution bag.
- Information also went out to our parishioners for those who might want to donate and go to Gustavus Lutheran Church on August 19th to hand out backpacks.

Donation Closet

Brittany's House-August

- Martha and Julie L. are in charge of bringing all donated items to Brittany's House.
- Brittany's House was asking for various gift cards, but we could not figure out a way to keep them secure and not to be in competition with gift cards needed for our fall festival. We decided we will ask only for the requested items.

Listening House-September

- Ann K. updated us with the news that Becca is leaving and Elise Pennica will be the new Program and Services Manager.
- Listening House will be moving to new location (Old Savoy's Pizza) at 421 E. 7th Street on September 29th. Hours will be 12:00 - 8:00 PM Wednesday thru Sunday.

Produce Table

- Julie L. announced that more gardeners are bringing more produce and it is going very well. She even brought some produce to NNO and gave away everything but a small bag of kale. Overall, very successful!