

Church of the Nativity
VOICE Buffalo-Social Justice Team Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm

Present: Jan Losi, Linda Siddons, Philip Siddons, Nancy Kresge, Helen Cyrulik, Bette Brunish, Carol Horvath.

1. Opening Prayer: Philip.
2. Review of Old Minutes: accepted.
3. Organizing People: schedule one-on-ones with EACH OTHER.
4. Evaluation of Public Meeting & October Monthly Meeting: Public Meeting: good turnout, approx. 500 people, good Buffalo News article, 60 "pink cards" (commitment cards) collected as a show of interest; "Community Policing" Task Force met first time, next step is to set up a meeting with Police Commissioner. No one from the East Side came. "Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization"-32 invites were sent out. Combining the two committees. To do a coffee hour Saturday at St. Luke's AME at 10am-plan is to do neighborhood walks. "Regionalism & Transportation" Task Force met last Thursday; 4 attended. Where to go after this? Capture enthusiasm, support and get behind one committee or topic? October Monthly Meeting evaluation: 20 in attendance, hoping for more. Agenda done by Bruce McKay. Little about local stuff. Need to capture momentum from previous 5 days. Agenda was reorganized to do break out groups, but ran out of time and never did groups. This was brought up at Board meeting, Bruce did not follow changed agenda. There is a concern that people are interested, but not attending monthly meetings. Feeling is that VOICE is two separate entities: clergy and other. Question raised at the November 3rd Board meeting; Bruce is an employee of the Gamaliel Foundation and President of VOICE Buffalo-is this a conflict? Next Board meeting is December 1st at the St. Mary's Center on Lafayette.
5. Next Steps: Sr. Sharon presentation on February 22 after church service. No lunch will be provided. Ad Hoc committee will begin in November to discuss Gamaliel Report. See handout from Board Meeting of Nov. 3rd. A positive is the connection with a National Organization. Negatives include the focus may be on national vs. local activities—where do we fit in? The full report was not discussed. Showing of Sprawl DVD in March or April—tabled till next meeting.
6. Organizing Money: IDC: ongoing. Pecan Sales: still available. Feast of Tables: Feb. 14th—possibly a Valentines Day theme. Art Auction: May 8th.
7. Upcoming Meetings: Our Next Meeting is Dec. 8th at 7pm. Invite Pastor Dan. VB Monthly Meetings: 11/17 at Blessed Sacrament at 7pm. 12/15 at Pilgrim St. Luke—note Board meeting at 6pm. followed at 7pm. general monthly meeting.
8. Evaluation & Prayer: Jan. Alot of talk, more muddled, we want more clarity, question future of organization.

Meeting adjourned: 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Helen Cyrulik