

St. Odilia Social Justice Ministry Area Council

Minutes 07-18-2023

Name	Attending? Y/N	Name	Attending? Y/N
Beth Aune	Y	Phil Aune - Chair	Y
Sheba Fernandez	Y	Annetta Sutton	Y
Lynn Belgea	Y	Bernie Wiwel - Recorder	Y
Steve Kahat	N	Attending PLC Rep –	Allison D.

(PLC Reps: Vicky Cherne, Troy Gregory, Anne Rodenberg, Allison Dirksen)

Opening Prayer

World Youth Day Pilgrimage

Cristian Reyes Rodriguez talked about the Latino Community of St. Odilia planning for a pilgrimage to World Youth Day and is looking for some financial support in this effort from the SJC.

Review of Last Minutes

Last minutes approved.

Report from Parish Leadership Council

Nothing to report, as the picnic was held in place of meetings.

Discernment Candidate

Phil invited Barb Woodruff to attend this meeting for discernment on joining the SJC. She is also on REM and interested to fill vacancies on SJC. After discussion she was approved as a new SJC member.

Funding Requests

Support for World Youth Day

The council discussed Cristian's request for support for a World Youth Day pilgrimage.

- It was pointed out that the World Youth Day event is held every three years. In that respect one idea was put forward to have something like a scholarship fund planned more regularly ahead of time for this event.

- Council members expressed an interest in being involved in supporting these efforts.
- Interaction with World Youth Day participants to help further awareness of social justice issues was also expressed as a welcomed opportunity.
- SJC agreed on providing \$1k to help support this.

Funding Approved in Last Meeting

- Respect Life: \$1K
- Holy Hammers: \$1K

Art from the Inside (AFTI)

Beth talked about Art From The Inside program:

- Antonio Espinosa, a correction officer at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Stillwater, and his wife Jessica Espinosa co-founded the Art from the Inside Program where prisoners can create and sell art to help support their families and tell their story from the inside.
- Beth talked Jessica to see if there would be interest to involve church groups in the activities of AFTI.
- A zoom call is scheduled for this Tuesday July 25 at 4:30 which any one from the council can join.
- One question was to find out if Jessica speaks Spanish to also facilitate presentation to the Latino community.
- Another question was to find out from Jessica if ARTI gets any support from Paul Snell.
- Sheba was wondering how do they operate the exhibits at the museums and what kind of help would they need.

College Scholarship

Discussion:

Sheba and Lynn gave an update on their work into the scholarship fund.

- Sheba and Lynn talked with Ramona Michaels, the Parish Development Director about funding a scholarship fund.
- At this point it is not clear to Sheba and Lynn that there is a good understanding of how the bequest is being managed.
- Overall their feeling was not optimistic that it could be managed or have someone put time into managing it, that is they did not get substantial feedback on setting up a plan.
- As a result of their meeting Sheba worked with Lynn to draft a letter to summarize what they learned from the discussion. They sent a copy of the letter to Phil.

- Sheba is interested to contact the Archdiocese for understanding how the funds are managed. Annetta is also looking for some contacts that she is aware of in the Archdiocese in this regard.
- There was some discussion on setting up criteria for the scholarship.
- Planning to do further investigation.

Questions/Take-Aways

Some questions and take-aways:

- Who does the selection?
- Probably based on essay.
- Sheba is thinking there needs to be a way to narrow the selection down to four people.
- Some factors to consider would be expected expenses, family expenses, and what the student can contribute.
- The current thought is to provide a \$1K scholarship to one person per year.
- If we are interested in getting a bigger benefactor to provide a scholarship fund, we would definitely need to have things more planned out in greater detail.

Juneteenth Experiences

Discussed Juneteenth events that were attended. Mostly this was the Roseville event.

- Phil and Beth attended the Roseville Juneteenth event.
- There were an interesting collection of booths and lots of good speakers and talks on racial equity.
- People at the booths were very welcoming and excited to have people from the greater community participate.

Alabama Trip

REM was planning an Alabama trip but it is currently tabled due to complications in organizing it and more so the expenses.

Collaborating with the Latino Community

Sheba updated us on her contact the Latino Community:

- Sheba and Lynn talked with Cristian about Latin community involvement with SJC.
- He was very supportive of the scholarship fund idea.
- He mentioned quite a lot of the students have undocumented parents and this would be very helpful for them.

- It was also learned that the Latino population of St. Odilia is growing partly due to open houses event they hold in their community. This gives them the opportunity to personally invite their friends and new acquaintances to come and participate at church with them.

REM and SJC

Phil put together a document for the meeting to discuss how we should define the different roles between REM and SJC.

- One question that arose is whether the St. Peter Claver Sister Parish is to be a focus point for REM or SJC? John Hunt was managing this, but seems like this activity needs to be picked up by someone now.
- Sheba mentioned an idea that a coworker gave her about how it would be nice to have St. Peter Claver come and share their African food with St. Odilia. The idea is that sitting down and having a meal together makes for a great way to begin a connection.
- Sheba expressed interested in picking up on some of the Sister Parish work. She will be reaching out to her colleague John on this.

Closing Prayer