



Rochesterians Engaging in Action for the Chronically Homeless

PO Box 10845, Rochester, NY, 14610

Minutes May 14, 2018

Approved Minutes from April 23 and Agenda May 14.

Reflection: Lulu shared a quote from Helen Keller concerning when doors close others open.

- June 4 meeting reflection: Oscar

House Closing Updates

John

- Top floor done
- Medical items and office items for people to look through
- Basement storage everything off the floor
- Still have former resident clothing in black bags, Lulu and Oscar are working on alerting owners
- Laundry room: Dan check for personal tools
- Kitchen cupboards clear
- Painting supplies left downstairs
- Toiletries left in storage
- Two washers working and the dryer on the staff side.
- "Corners to Careers" is going to use 59 Ontario Street, very pleased with condition of building.

Financial Report

David

- \$7500 in bank, but owe Andy about \$5000 for security deposits
- Have not paid RGE, more funds coming, expecting about \$8600 still from the county.
- Motion to approve Michael Hopkins as the new treasurer. Approved
 - 6 months trial period for both parties
- David and Michael will be meeting soon
- David will continue until this season's books are closed.

REACH Advocacy: Moving Forward

Andy

- Summary of our thoughts from the last meeting
 - All on same page want to help the chronically homeless
 - Want to establish ourselves not just as a temporary shelter organization
 - Need 501c3 status and incorporation to move forward
 - Now wish to take three years of knowledge and figure out how to use it
 - Not just an advocacy group, we want hands on work.
- If we agree that becoming a 501c3 is important to achieving our mission, we need to incorporate and to do this we need to identify and elect a founding board.
 - We will now need to meet and interview new people like we did with the treasurer to form a board.
- What is the function of a board? (Dimitri House example from Laurie)
 - Dimitri Board has a president, secretary, treasurer CPA and directors
 - Largest job fundraising and financial overseeing



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- Board needs to be invested in the organization
 - Need people who have coordinated big events and have good connections
 - Executive director (Laurie) has no vote
 - Meet monthly
 - Sit on sub committees so need plenty of people
 - Monthly meetings include: budget review, overview of programs, pep talk on fundraising, needs, exec director report
 - Need well healed and connected people
 - Responsibility for fiduciary matters is the primary role
 - Need to know the history of the organization and have passion for the work.
- Our values clarified:
 - Want to help the chronically homeless
 - Read mission statement

REACH Advocacy advocates for and with chronically homeless persons in the Rochester, NY area, seeing that all are treated with dignity and respect.

REACH Advocacy collaborates to create safe, financially sustainable housing options to meet the needs of chronically homeless individuals by ensuring services needed and encouraging mutual care.

- Create a supportive community that accepts that chronically homeless issues are many times due to a medical issue not the choice of the individual
 - Need to filter who is truly chronically homeless
 - We seem committed to a continuum from shelter to permanent and transitional housing.
- What kinds of people do we want on the board?
 - CPA
 - Attorney
 - Realtor
 - ?
 - How do we identify them?
 - Who will help to recruit them?
 - We need to talk to our contacts for names
 - Then we will interview and elect
 - Suggestion: form a selection committee (an intentional task force) to vet people
 - 5 people with flexible schedules
 - group should develop standard questions and a checklist of skills we are looking for
 - Look at Rochester Young Professionals, Next Gen: get younger people
 - They need know how and passion
 - They need to understand the challenges of the homeless and their needs
 - Marge, Jeanette, Dan: chair, Heide, Deb
 - Send the names of people who may be interested and qualified to Dan
 - Send questions to ask to Dan.



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- Next Meeting we will discuss the questions below:
 - If we want to use the skills and insights we have learned over the last three years as a way to care for the homeless, what strategy might we employ to create a plan to make this happen?
 - What might grow this team?
 - Who is willing to work on this?
 - What other questions do we have that will help us move forward?

Announcements:

All

- Mike has been working with the tent community and Take Back the Land
 - Need help with supplies, serving meals in Washington Square Park
 - They have a Facebook link and we will advertise on our Facebook, website and large email list
 - Mike will send us the information to post
- Lulu will help with Facebook while Deb is gone
- Jeannette, Sept. 13, Homeless Connect
 - Need toiletries to distribute
 - Put in newsletter and on the website
- Wednesday Rally for more low-income housing at 3:30, Parcel 5
 - Sponsored by the Poor Peoples Campaign, Homeless Union, HoM, St. Joe's
- Dan, Andy and Peter met with Carol Wheeler from the city
 - Carol was very encouraging about the City helping to support the creation of a REACH Tiny Home Village
 - Dan has found some property on St. Paul that is available
 - Carol is contacting the zoning board, so REACH can present the plan
 - This will give information on the issues in our way
 - 3 properties contiguous, 2 are available
 - Center parcel belongs to a Hispanic church with an old house on it that could be a community building, Dan has talked with the church leader
 - Peter met with the chair of the architectural department at RIT
 - He has agreed to present our plan to the faculty to seek designs as part of student projects
 - We need architectural designs to present to the zoning commission.

Next Meeting: June 4, 2 pm at REACH Home

Reflection: Oscar

Agenda:

- Questions and a checklist from the Selection Committee
- If we want to use the skills and insights we have learned over the last three years as a way to care for the homeless, what strategy might we employ to create a plan to make this happen?
- What might grow this team?
- Who is willing to work on this?
- What other questions do we have that will help us move forward?