



# Rochesterians Engaging in Action for the Chronically Homeless

PO Box 10845, Rochester, NY, 14610

## Minutes June 4, 2018

The minutes from May 14 and the agenda for June 4 were approved.  
The reflection was a prayer delivered by Peter, thank you.

- Next meeting Reflection: Sarah

### Financial Report

David

- Our total cost to run the shelter this past season was \$92,000
- The salaries paid totaled \$70,000
- We currently have \$9,100 in the bank
- The county owes us \$8500 that should be coming soon
- We owe McCollaborative for security deposits approximately \$5000
- This should leave us at least \$12,000 in the bank.

### Shannon greeted us

- Iraq was awesome, the people were welcoming, Kurdistan is a huge city.
- Her group built a skate park and enjoyed breath taking scenery
- She also went to see some pyramids in Egypt and a refugee camp where she taught little kids to skate.

### REACH Board Selection Committee

Dan

- Marge, Jeanette, Heide, Deb, (Dan, Chair)
- Dan prepared a handout that is attached, read it for details
- We need a person with banking experience, send ideas to Dan
- John suggested we find a person from the Office of Adult Career Education Services (OACES)
- Desire to bring in more people with expertise to our "operational group"
- Board eventually will meet quarterly, but in the beginning, they might meet monthly
- 5 outside representatives and 6 regularly attending REACH members
- Need to have people who know the history and will link with the operational team
- Send list of 6 people fitting job descriptions from REACH to nominate for the board
- We need to consider the skills needed as well as the term, frequency of meetings and responsibilities as a board member like fiduciary responsibility
- Thank you to this group for your hard work.

### St. Paul Street Tiny Home Project

Dan/Peter

- Three lots of land identified, two owned by the city, the one in the middle is owned by a Hispanic faith Community
- The first meeting with Carol Wheeler from the city was very encouraging
- Peter met with a RIT architectural professor who was receptive to his students doing some tiny home designs, but no final response yet
- Peter met with Pastor Santos from the Hispanic Church, their dream is to build a sanctuary on their land, but by end of meeting the pastor suggested the sanctuary might be built on the back of the existing building,
- They have a congregation of 80 on Sundays who will need to be consulted

- Two of the lots are 360 feet deep which is unusually long, for city lots
- At this point the city is looking into how zoning laws need to be changed
- Our wish is to make it look like a real village, not all the same style with a mix of renters and rent to own
- The land itself would be owned by the Rochester Land Trust
- Discussion held on neighborhood condition which has many issues, we could be a positive influence on the area.

### **West Main Corridor Tiny Home Group**

John

In the Susan B Anthony preservation district there is a manufacturing area with warehouse buildings. This could be a place to manufacture tiny homes. We could possibly begin to develop a homeless community nearby as workers and ship pre-made tiny homes to other places. This is an idea to consider down the road.

### **Housing Justice Alliance**

Peter

- A group including Peter took a risk of being arrested recently and occupied the Governor's Rochester office. This action got the governor's attention. As a result, there is a meeting scheduled with Alphonso David, the Governor's personal counsel on June 6 in Albany
- There are 15,000 families living on income below \$10,000 a year
- Rents are \$600-\$700 a month and they can't pay
- We need **real affordable** housing
- There are many areas being gentrified which causes rents to increase and poor people to be pushed out
- The Housing Justice Alliance is asking for two things
  - Rochester to be included in a state rent stabilization program
  - An end to no fault eviction
  - Also concerns from HSN on increasing the time people can stay in shelters and reducing sanctions

### **Matthew Flanigan, Habitat for Humanity**

Peter

- Who would like to contact Matthew re: his experience rehabbing Zombie Homes
- Possibly 2-3 people from REACH could talk with Matthew Flanigan to learn how they have done it? Perhaps they will help us.

### **Announcements**

- VOA Tiny Home project in concept, may be able to approach them for support
- Washington Square Park Neighborhood Association is interested in assisting with the encampment
  - Spectrum is not rushing, but camp has grown
- Meeting about having the city provide a sanctioned camp site, feedback session, no decisions, interesting live conversation from city
- June newsletter being written this week
  - None for July and August.

**Next Meeting: June 18, 2 pm at REACH House**

Reflection: Sarah