

**Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council
Monthly Business Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2010
Plymouth Congregational Church**

The monthly business meeting was held on Thursday, September 2, at Plymouth Congregational Church preceding and following meetings of the various Standing Teams of the Council. President Rich Thompson conducted the meeting, calling it to order at approximately 9:15 and reconvening it at about 10:40 after the Standing Team meetings. Approximately 21 were in attendance and introduced themselves. Rich Thompson of the host church welcomed the group.

Recording Secretary's Report. Sandra Brown reported that the minutes of July 1 are corrected to read "Jessica Kerr of Baha'i announced that they will be conducting a youth retreat ..." The Treasurer's Report was also incorrect and the new report below reflects the correction. **The minutes were accepted as corrected.**

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Carol Smith reported:

Beginning balance in July:	\$9472.15
Income (to Administration)	\$ 245.00
Administrative Expenses:	\$ 245.00
Grants	\$5,725.00
Ending balance in July:	\$3,747.15
[Admin: \$1604.37; Grants \$4,142.78]	

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Team Reports

Awards and Grants. **Carol Smith reporting:** Carol Smith recommended that IFC be one of four agencies (the others being Center for Hope, Catholic Charities, and United Way) sponsoring the fundraiser for the Homeless Day Services Initiative versus being its treasurer or fiscal agent for IRS purposes. In related decisions, Carol and Helen Somersall will participate on the fundraiser committee.

Activities and Programs. **JoAn Hopkins reported that**

- Rich is in charge of okaying presentations from outside groups. These presentations shall be no more than 3 minutes in length.
- October 23 at Plymouth Congregation there will be a poverty simulation as part of Make a Difference Day. It will be from 9 – 12:00 with Steve and Zoë helping out.
- We will stay with 2 meetings per month
- Rick Bunch will serve on the committee for the fundraiser

- Pathways Past Poverty will hold a candidates forum and respond to questions provided in advance. On September 21 the forum will be at the museum in Loveland and September 28 it will be at the Senior Center in Fort Collins.
- At each program meeting the host congregation will present for five minutes on the basic beliefs of their church.
- Upcoming IFC programs are
 - September 16, a panel by Poudre School District on bullying
 - September 30, 7:00 evening program, at the Hope Center. **Please invite the spiritual leader of your congregation and the person who receives visitors and makes referrals.**
 - October 21 – Spirit Crossing, Larimer Center for Mental Health, will discuss their program and the ‘place for normalcy’ that they provide
 - November 18 – a panel on service for returning veterans, including those suffering from PTSD
- IFC wants to support positive events on September 11, wishing to be counted with those who decry the anti-Muslim sentiment in the country. A letter to the Coloradoan was approved, as well as attending the September 7 City Council meeting where the letter will be read into the record. **People should gather at 5:45 outside the City Council meeting site at LaPorte and Howes.** Though these actions were approved, we are cognizant that none present had opportunity to consult their congregations. Therefore, those taking actions are, in this case, individual members of the IFC.

Communication and Membership. **Mary Garcia reported:**

- We will circulate the sign-up sheet for next year’s hosting at the October 7 meeting.
- We are still working on Constant Contact E-bulletin. We can get reduced rates by establishing our 501c3 bona fides.
- Covenant Forms will go out via e-mail in October. Representatives of faith organizations are reminded that they are to shepherd the Forms through their organization’s requirements.
- Mary Garcia will represent the team for the fundraiser.

New Business

Junaid Subzwari of Muslims Against Hunger and Elisa Tivona from Har Shalom were present as guests to speak to how to address any anticipated negative events on 9/11 such as expressions of religious intolerance. Junaid suggested a demonstration. Elisa suggested that, besides Har Shalom, both Not in Our Town Alliance (NIOTA) and the Tent of Abraham, Hagar and Sarah would like to support the proposed letter going to “Soapbox” size. Because other suggestions, such as a prayer vigil were made, the issue was referred to Social Concerns. Junaid also reported that the Islamic Center does plan to build or to occupy another building. They will have a fundraiser on Saturday. Junaid and Olga Duvall will confer about a donation of meat for a Thanksgiving dinner.

Announcements

Janeah Weaver, Director of Development for Hearts & Horses, a non-profit in town since 1997 made a brief presentation. Their organization uses horses to help those with physical, emotional and mental disabilities through three programs: therapeutic riding, Changing Leads for at-risk youth, and Horses for Heroes for those with PTSD.

Tim Conrad's Vista assignment is over and he would like a job that keeps him in Fort Collins.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Brown, Recording Secretary