

Task Force Program Evaluation Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2019

Present: David Stahl, Debbie Metz, Robyn Sommerfield, Ellen Lucius, Laura Lawson, Sarah Wolf, Janie Ballurio, Peggy Roberson, Kathleen Wilkers, Connie Westfall, Hugh Westfall, Karen Peterson, Betty Gilchrest, Cliff Gilchrist, James Harris, Eileen Cooper, Tom Brooks, Ron Ramsey, Brandan Sommerfield.

David Stahl open with prayer.

We all enjoyed delicious cookies baked by Cary Dahl.

Robyn began the meeting by having the minutes from our March 12th meeting accepted as written.

A committee of 3 – David Stahl, Cliff Gilchrist, and Eileen Cooper, have volunteered to meet and draft a Task Force Mission Statement to be presented at the next meeting. The mission statement will incorporate the food insecurity and educational interests of the two separate task forces that have been combined into one.

A meeting schedule for the remainder of 2019 was agreed upon for the 4th Sunday of each month after the 10:30 service. The next meeting will be May 19 in the Fellowship Hall. (the 4th Sunday in May is Memorial Day Weekend)

Old Business: Boys and Girls Club of Staunton

1. First Friday Events – discussion and feedback from participants were very positive and want to continue our participation. Robyn will brain storm ideas for our next 1st Friday Theme, such as building a wooden Gingerbread House in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity, for display during the Christmas Lights in Gypsy Hill Park. One goal is to get more members of Covenant involved. Laura Lawson also recommended more person to person relationships by possibly using name tags at the beginning of the program and doing a get to know you energizer the first month.
2. Mentoring/Tutoring Program - Five Covenant volunteers are building a relationship with Scott, the Staunton Boys and Girls Club site manager. The staff really appreciates all our time and effort and are willing to work with us to build a more appropriate environment for learning. We have just started to be recognized by the kids as folks who want to help. It will take tiny, consistent steps to reach our goal. The tutors have been brainstorming ways to set expectations, visualize room configurations, and utilize books and art supplies at the club. Once the tutoring structure is more firmly in place, we hope to entice more Covenant members to get involved. There was also an interest in following up with those who initially signed up as a tutor/mentor volunteer.

New Business: Other Community Organizations

1. It was agreed to continue to focus on the Boys and Girls Club. Robyn invited all interested members to attend the B&G Club Youth Development Committee. Meetings are held at 5:30 on the first Mondays of May, August, October, and February. We also agreed to continue to research on other community opportunities in order to offer the congregation a wide choice in which to be involved.

- a. David Stahl will explore and report about the YMCA's National Youth Volunteer Corp.
 - b. Karen Peterson will report on the Laundromat Literacy Program.
 - c. Peggy Roberson is working with Shelburn Middle School to assist families in need (potentially, a specific need this summer is 8 families residing in a hotel that may require extra assistance – Peggy will research on if we can help).
 - d. Ron Ramsey brought up the prospect of Barbershop Books
2. Robyn suggested having a potential web page on our Covenant website to disperse information to the congregation. This idea will be taken to Congregational Care Team.

Brandan Sommerfield closed the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

Reminder – next meeting is May 19 after the 10:30 service.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janie Ballurio