

May 19th, 2019 Minutes, Covenant Poverty Task Force

Present: Robyn Sommerfield, Cary Dahl, Betty and Cliff Gilchrest, Eileen Cooper, Peggy and Bill Roberson, David Stahl, Karen Peterson, Laura Lawson, Sarah Wolf, Ellen Lucius, Brandan Sommerfield, Kathleen Wilkers, Janie Ballurio, Debbie Metz

Devotions: Cary led the group in a round of devotion and opening prayer

April 28, 2019 meeting minutes approved

Mission Statement subcommittee: David, Eileen and Cliff introduced their draft Vision and Mission Statements (attached). After discussion and suggestions, the group decided that *everyone should study the options individually and send the subcommittee a favorite, edited choice.*

Boys and Girls Club Youth Development Committee: Robyn shared highlights from the recent Boys and Girls Club committee meeting (minutes attached). The meeting focused on improving the tutoring program, establishing a newsletter to enhance communication with parents and community, and reintroducing a program of outside educators and speakers. She also requested suggestions for a mentor for a special 16 year old student who could benefit from guidance. The issue of “summer slide” was also addressed, with the hope that in the future, the club might provide summer programming to help students retain advances made the previous school year. The Youth Development Committee will meet again on August 5th. Planned Improvements to the Tutoring program include developing volunteer policies/procedures, engineering a quieter space conducive to reading and studying (thank you Janey Terry) and culling and revamping the book selection (thank you, Karen).

Covenant First Fridays Boys and Girls Club programming: Robyn referred the group to a draft of the fall programming, which includes a construction component, a baking component and a nutrition component for the gingerbread themed event in December. Peggy brought examples of placemats the kids could make out of Christmas cards. We discussed a Thanksgiving theme for November. Committee members are encouraged to come up with programming suggestions for this as well as for September and October.

Hotel Families: Peggy brought up the 8 Shelburne families who are living in area hotels. How can they take advantage of the free summer meals program? How can we help? Peggy will contact Amanda Warren for information on all the summer serving sites so we can publicize and promote the list with people who need it.

Summer Free Lunch: Janie has been in contact with Wanda Stevens of the Staunton Housing Authority about providing programming/entertainment/serving for Farrier Court etc. Lunches will be served three days a week, fewer than last year, but perhaps more in line with demand. Can we do anything to increase attendance? The kids seemed to enjoy playing games that Covenant members brought last summer. What about just bringing a basketball and suggesting a game after lunch? Janie will attend a training that Wanda is offering and report back.

YMCA Update: David has gotten a list of supplies needed by the volunteer corps. Perhaps Covenant could help fill the need?

Additional Community Needs: The group has been asked to be on the lookout for opportunities to serve youth in areas of food security and nutrition

Adjournment: Cary closed with prayer. Next Meeting: Tentatively June 23rd at 11:45

Respectively Submitted, Cary Dahl