

TASK FORCE FOR CHILDREN IN POVERTY MEETING MINUTES

September 22, 2019

Attendees: Janie Ballurio, Eileen Cooper, Cary Dahl, Cliff Gilchrest, Ellen Lucius, John Peterson, Ron Ramsey, Brandan Sommerfield, Robyn Sommerfield, David Stahl, Connie Westfall, Hugh Westfall

Devotions by Cary Dahl and Approval of August Minutes

I. Task Force Mission Statement

- A. Thanks to David, Eileen, and Cliff for working on the Session approved mission statement
- B. Update on Vision Statement – David reported that they are going back to the drawing board to create a new vision statement after the previous statement faced some copyright issues – it is near completion for the group to review

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Rally Day – September 8 – Eileen Cooper and Karen Peterson created a display – it went very well and the group received a lot of positive feedback
 - a. A new volunteer signed up to help
 - b. The display can be reused and the brochure will be edited as the group continues to evolve

III. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Budget – Cliff discussed that Outreach is willing to set a line item for the Task Force and asked if there was a recommended amount – a \$2,500 request was approved – Outreach will request the funds for the Task Force in that amount
- B. Shelburne Middle School UPDATE – Peggy was not able to attend the meeting so we will receive an update at a later time
- C. Boys and Girls Club:
 - a. First Friday Program – all went well – we cut out a display for the Gypsy Hill Celebration of Lights using a Jigsaw with the kids, created ornament designs, and did a nutrition unit with James
 - b. Cary will be working with the kids Monday to paint the trees that were created
 - i. Future First Fridays in October, November, and December
 - 1. Cary will do a nutrition unit in October; Brandan will lead a unit on circuits and electricity; and Makerspace will show a video of the ornaments being cut out and the kids will paint their ornaments
 - 2. Hugh Westfall volunteered to help donate drop cloths and gather paint supplies for the next First Friday
 - 3. Eileen Cooper will make a sweet potato casserole for our November unit on family traditional dishes
 - 4. Connie Westfall will volunteer to help Cary with cookies in December

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September 22, 2019

- ii. Requested supplies needed for October program via newsletter
 - iii. Preliminary planning for the Spring
 - 1. Robyn asked the group to think about future First Fridays (if anyone would like to lead a project this coming Spring or even next Fall); we already have a tentative commitment from James and possibly work with Project Grows
 - c. Tutoring
 - i. Eileen Cooper provided an update – everything is going very well – there is a need for more volunteers
 - 1. Cary will reach out to Stuart Hall, Robyn will reach out to Grace Christian, and Janie will reach out to the Covenant Youth Group to find out if there are interested volunteers
 - d. Next YD Committee Boys and Girls Club Meeting Oct. 7th
 - i. The group is revamping the Summer Camp program – if anyone is interested in joining in the dialogue, the meeting is at Booker T at 5:30
- D. Community Organizations:
- a. YMCA Update – David Stahl
 - b. Laundromat Literacy Program – Karen Peterson (Tabled)
 - c. Barbershop Books – Ron Ramsey to provide an update (Tabled)
 - i. Resources provided by Ron are on the Task Force webpage
 - d. Nutrition
 - o Research at the Boys and Girls Club by Janie Ballurio:
 - B&G receives snacks and meals from BRFB; menu predetermined and rotates every 2 weeks (same menu for the last 3 years)
 - Quality and selection poor – lots of food waste and hungry kids
 - Currently, we are able to supplement the snack and/or meals without jeopardizing funding
 - B&G Club researching an FDA grant and dropping BRFB
 - Discussion on also being able to use the USDA grant to buy food independently rather than go through BRFB
 - o Janie agreed to head up a group to research if we might be able to supplement the snacks provided to the kids – potentially start with 1-2 per week – Janie is gathering volunteers to help
 - e. New organizations or opportunities – our group needs to keep actively pursuing possible opportunities to help Children in Poverty
 - i. Peggy brought an article to Cary’s attention regarding local business loans from a church program that was helping small businesses with social policies

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1. Hugh Westfall discussed that the Staunton Community Creative Fund he is involved with is already offering this to the community

E. COVENANT Webpage:

- a. Up and running: <https://www.covenantpresstaunton.org/serve/children-in-poverty-task-force/>

Closing Prayer by John Peterson

FUTURE DATES: We did not set a future meeting date – the next one is TBD, as needed