

Minutes of Allied Partners Meeting August 20, 2019

Attendance: Eileen Dresser, Rhea Schultz, Marge Lyford, Wynn Davies, Mary Collet, Ryan Estrella (social worker, Joining Forces for Families), Molly Plunkett, Alice Howard, Ann Moffat, Cindy Bacon Hammer, Gloria Manadier-Farr, Deb Annen.

Minutes of July 16 meeting. Invitation to School Board Member—Molly invited Cris Carusi to attend the August meeting, but she was unable to come. **City Council Survey**—Alice distributed the survey to neighborhood residents. She thinks it has little value because of its narrow focus, multiple choice method for responses, and lack of a place for comments. The July minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report (Wynn)

Eviction Prevention Fund—Rent was paid for three people in dire circumstances, the deposit on an apartment was paid for a homeless family, and a utilities bill was paid for someone temporarily out of work. Wynn thanked several individuals and congregations for their contributions to the fund. End of July balance was \$4,128; an average of \$826/month remains for the rest of the year. To date, the average monthly disbursement has been \$1,100.

Special Projects Fund—\$50 was given to the Neighborhood Association for snow cone rental for the block party. The fund received donations of \$250 from First Baptist Church and \$350 from First Presbyterian Women for Brotherhood.

Allied Scholarship Fund—Balance has increased to \$2,701, thanks to \$500 from First Baptist Church.

Wellness Center Fund—Thanks to Reah Schultz for a contribution of \$100.

Reminder: Checks should be written to MUM—Allied Partners, noting the fund(s) or event(s) on the memo line.

Wellness Center (Gloria)—67 contacts for July (15 unduplicated and 52 duplicated). 27 families were served, including 14 teens. 21 bus tickets and 15 gas cards were distributed; two 10-day bus passes were donated. Bus tickets and gas cards will be covered by Bethany United Methodist in September and Westminster Presbyterian in November. Community health workers volunteered 9 hours of service. United Way is helping with health insurance premiums. Three activities were held in July, with 28 participants.

Gloria provides referrals to mental health resources, but the center is not licensed to provide assessments. Carmella Harris, Jacqueline Stevens, and Dr. Al have provided support. The G-Rock support group, which is held at 225 Allied Drive, resumes on September 9, from 11 a.m. to 1 pm.

Gloria is once again connecting with first- and second-year UW medical students, introducing them to the Allied Drive community and scheduling activities, such as heroin overdose training.

The Essentials Pantry is in great need of toilet paper and size 5 & 6 diapers. Wynn suggested contributing \$150 from the Special Projects Fund for the Essentials Pantry and/or transportation, as Gloria sees fit.

Eviction Prevention (Ryan)—July was busier than usual; 30 walk-ins and many phone calls. The County Executive wants to meet with “stakeholders and residents” of the neighborhood to assess needs; Ryan

and Alice will arrange the meeting. Ryan has been offered office space in a building on Park St and Badger Rd, where he could provide support for students. He also has office hours at Madison College.

Allied/Dunns Marsh Neighborhood/Allied Drive Coop (Alice)

Note: The Dunns Marsh Neighborhood Association is no longer formally involved. Each neighborhood has their own issues. Alice keeps Dunns Marsh in the name because the neighborhoods overlap.

- The block party was excellent.
- The community meal has returned to the Boys & Girls Club. August: tacos with Mexican corn, bingo; sponsored by Bethany Methodist, Prairie Unitarian, and First Baptist. Wynn says that even though First Baptist will not be preparing the food, he encourages people to eat and mingle with neighborhood folks. Marge knows of a mariachi band in McFarland and will give info to Wynn. Upcoming meals—September, Westminster Presbyterian; October, LLC.
- Leadership class—The class is going well and Alice says she is learning a lot. Topics include voting.
- Backpacks with school supplies will be distributed at Penn Park on September 2.
- Alice would like to see development of both a resource center and a neighborhood school.
- Alice plans to retire from her coop leadership role in early November so that she can focus on a resource center. She would like to hold a retreat for those who follow her but needs funding.

Scholarship Committee (Ann and Ryan)—Two HS graduates were approved for scholarships to Madison College. Gloria would like to apply for a scholarship for her granddaughter, who has lived in the Allied Drive neighborhood. There was some discussion about developing a policy about who is eligible to apply.

Newsletter (Cindy)—Articles for the upcoming newsletter are needed NOW. Cindy would like to include a calendar of events/meetings/community meals/etc. Dr. Al (Wellness Center) would like copies of the newsletter.

Submitted by Mary Collet, subbing for the secretary