



Great Falls Inter-Faith Association

January 24th, 2013

Opportunities Inc. –Resource Center

Ray opened the meeting with a reading and a prayer.

Ray updated us on a couple of prayer concerns.

Kim gave a treasurer's report. She said that we presently had \$1844.64 in the bank and the dues for our members are due and they are \$35.00.

Fred said that he was working with the task force and meeting on Fridays weekly. He said 2 weeks ago they had a strategic planning meeting and were having a meeting today at 3pm and were going to focus on the 5 homeless groups and the issues they face. The five groups are Vets, youth, addiction and mentally ill, families and offenders. They need to work on not only the homeless issue, but mind, body and spirit.

Kate from Family Promise is working on a needs assessment and gathering resources to work on a 5013c designation and they are working to recruit churches.

Jim reported that the Rescue Mission is full and that they have had to put a family in the children's playroom, a family in the dayroom and that the Chapel is full of men. He said they have been looking into renting space from Ferrin's and Ferrin's has come back with an attractive rental fee with an option to buy. This new space would add an additional 3,000 square feet to house office space and other support services and free up space in the women's shelter and the main Rescue Mission building to house more homeless men, women and families. He also said they are celebrating 50 years at the Rescue Mission.

Fred asked if Jim thought that this was a bubble or was it going to grow. Jim said it is only going to grow as social services are continuing to be cut. Kim agreed and said that they had given out 4 hotel vouchers this week alone.

Jill is putting together a resource book for people getting out of prison. This book will help with housing and to help to reeducate them, give them resources and to help them to reorganize, etc. Sydney, with the Center for Mental Health, is also working on the 211 number to call for resources through Voice of Hope.

This Saturday from 10-2 the College is hosting Project Homeless. Resources have been gathered from all over the city to provide haircuts, dental exams, etc. to the homeless population. The Rescue Mission is providing rides to the College from the Mission every 45 minutes.

Ray told us that Josh has taken all the information that we gathered a couple of years ago concerning the resources of all the local area churches and is putting them into a data base for us.

Kim was re-nominated as treasurer and is decided at that time that in addition to Kim, we needed a co-treasurer. Udo was nominated as co-treasurer, seconded and unanimously agreed to. He was voted in as co-treasurer and is an authorized signer to the GFIA account.

I, Shelia was nominated secretary again, seconded and unanimously agreed to. Stephen was nominated as co-secretary, seconded and agreed to.

Jim suggested voting on suspending the by-laws to support additional Vice President Positions and it was agreed to.

Nominated, seconded and agreed to for the three Vice Presidents were Jill, VP of Communications,

Vice President of Service Agencies, Jim, VP of Homeless Task Force, Fred.

Ray was nominated, seconded and unanimously voted in to remain our President.

Marcia told us that 1 in 3 women in their lifetime will be beaten or raped. She said someone donated a cement Angel statue and that on February 14th at 5:30 pm the Connecticut victims would be honored.

Ron said that there was going to be a Blue Grass Festival Event to raise funds for Family Promise, specifically their filing fees. It will be on Thursday February 28th in the evening at First United Methodist Church.

Saturday April 13th will be the Crop Walk and Run. 25% of the monies raised stays with our local food bank. It starts at 8:30 am with the 10k run and 9:00 for the walk at Gibson Park.

Respectfully submitted.