



# Great Falls Inter-Faith Association

April 24, 2014

Pastor Ray opened with a reading and prayer.

Jim Keizer gave us many updates, they are all on the website @ <http://gfrm.org/>.

Udo: \$470 has been collected so far this year in dues; checking account balance is \$2049.65. He suggested we use our money for good purposes and proposed that we have already paid \$300 for a drug and alcohol-free graduation party, Great Falls High School has asked for a donation of \$250 to the baccalaureate program.

Jim made the motion, Joe seconded. No opposition.

Fred further suggested that we preemptively approve CMR High Schools too.

Jim amended his support to include the second high school. No opposition.

Major Joe: Is GFIA evolving, and if so to what? And do we have all the right players involved? We need to look at our list, and see if there are others that would be assets to include at our meetings.

We need to write down specific goal and objectives of what we want to accomplish. We need to re-gain our focus; does the name need to evolve so that it encompasses more of the community at large? We are addressing long-term issues, so we need long-term supporters.

There also doesn't seem to be enough info out that tells what each agency does. We see a lot of duplication.

The community resource directory is being updated; they are trying to improve circulation to more organization.

There is generally a lack of understanding or info about the 211 service crisis line works and what it's there for.

Overall, he feels we need to do better at getting information out and making it available.

Kristy: We need to be the liaison between the community groups and the faith groups. We are the "middle man" between community and faith groups.

Ray: 211 IS on our website, and we have a directory listing agencies and faith-based organization.

Les: the Voices of Hope crisis line updates the community resource directory annually. It should be done next month, can order a copy for \$16.

Pastor Ray sent around a sign up sheet to request a copy.

Meeting with Salvation Army next week to talk about how needs such as food pantries, backpacks, etc. are met.

Joan: Some of the food pantries provide service over the summer, and some do not. They are largely dependent on volunteers, and are trying to get a list together detailing which are open and which are not. Teachers, Counselors, and specialists try to make an informed decision about who really needs food and who doesn't. Generally there is not a formal way of making these decisions.

Breakfast and lunch are being offered at Paris Gibson center for kids throughout the summer. A survey that goes out to kids on their safety, drug and alcohol usage, helmet wearing, thoughts of suicide, bullying, etc. They did a wide-scale survey of kids last year, about 85% of kids, and it showed alarmingly high numbers of abuse issues among middle and high school kids. He distributed email to all the kid's parents, between 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades, giving some statistics and asking parents to sit down and talk to their kids about drug/alcohol usage.

The meeting was adjourned.

Our next meeting will be May 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon, Benefis West Lewis and Clark Room.