



DRAFT

CITY OF PARK RIDGE

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PARK RIDGE HUMAN NEEDS TASK FORCE

"To assess the human needs of the community and to help ensure that they are met by utilizing existing resources.

To identify areas of human needs not currently met by existing resources and recommend a plan to address those needs.

To raise awareness and promote more effective communication as it relates to the human needs of the community."

Human Needs Task Force Meeting Notes
Mayor's Conference Room
October 14, 2008 8:30 am.

ATTENDING: John Benka, Kate Kerin, Dean Whitford, Mary Schurder, Darlene Hejza, Karen Cohen, Joan Lampert, Floyd Kortenhof, David Barker, Missy Langan and Jennifer Steurer.

I. INVOCATION

Invocation was offered by David Barker and John Benka.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the September 9, 2008 meeting were approved.

III. GUEST SPEAKER

Nothing scheduled.

John suggested putting together a list of potential speakers for the future. The following list of speakers was compiled and the dates for each will be decided upon at a upcoming meeting.

- The City Manager-Jim Hock
- Avenues to Independence
- CERT(Community Emergency Response Team)-Lt. Jeff Sorensen
- JCRRT (Joint Community Response and Recovery Team)-Battalion Chief Bill Pretzer
- Maine East Health Clinic-Noah
- Maine Center
- Center of Concern
- The Senior Center

Kate Kerin proposed that the PADS discussion take place at the beginning of the meeting instead of at the end to allow ample time to cover all the issues that usually don't get addressed due to time constraints. All agreed. John began by speaking about the meeting Eva, the Mayor and himself had about 10 days prior. Eva was concerned about the stance this group might take in relevance to PADS. She was also concerned if this committee made a statement of any kind relating to PADS, what each person on the Human Needs Task Force would be comfortable with, being a representative of their organization. At this meeting, it was discussed a letter would be proposed and passed to the City

Council and how the Mayor felt about it. The Mayor felt it was a worthwhile idea. John proposed drafting a statement/letter before the next 10/20/08 City Council meeting about PADS. He wanted to know how the group felt about being included in the letter. Kate read the mission statement and said she firmly believed the Task Forces' mission was to help, thus should support a PADS shelter. All members discussed their stance on this matter and if they felt their organizations as well, would support a PADS shelter. John had prepared a draft letter that was passed out, discussed and changed, to reflect the Human Needs Task Forces' stance. Stephen Larson forwarded a request as he could not attend the meeting, to have a motion included with this letter:

"Be it resolved that the Mayor's Task Force on Human Needs endorse the Park Ridge Ministerial Association's proposal to provide a PADS shelter in Park Ridge.

Be it further resolved that the Mayor's Task Force on Human Needs encourage the City Council to enable St. Paul of the Cross Roman Catholic Parish to serve as the host site without restriction or license."

The Task Force decided the letter addressed his first concern but did not agree to include the second part as they felt it would make it difficult to get this project to move forward. Other discussion ensued regarding restrictions, proposals, etc. about the shelter. Jennifer will email the people missing from this meeting, to see if they would endorse this letter and want to be included on it. The letter will be signed by the co-chairs and include the representatives that want their names/title/organization added as well.

★ Missy Langan agreed not to discuss this letter with anyone. ★

IV. AGENCIES/CHURCH REPORTS

St. Luke's

No report.

Fair Housing Commission (FHC)

No report.

Center of Concern

Mary reported their 30 year anniversary gala that took place on 9/19/08 was a huge success and received about \$38,000 from it. The rental and utility assistance program is in great demand right now. They do have a new social worker for transitional housing and she will be brought to the next meeting. A holiday boutique will be held at St. Andrew's on 10/25 & 10/26. Mary thanked all for their support of the Center. Mary will bring information about a homeless count that will be done in January.

Medical Supply Closet (Park Ridge Community Church)

Dean had nothing to report.

Advocate Lutheran General

No report.

Park Ridge Community Fund

The Park Ridge Community Fund will celebrate their 50th anniversary on 10/15/08 at the Country Club. David reiterated the only donors they get are from residents and the business community. They exist to serve those that serve and support over 20 agencies.

Avenues to Independence

Floyd reported their budget has been cut 2 ½ % by the governor. They are working feverishly to restore those funds but it is having a huge impact on agencies that provide services for developmental

disabilities. Some agencies aren't making payroll, cutting programs and Avenues may have to do the same. Maine Center has also had budget cuts.

Maine Township

No report.

Maine Center

Karen had nothing to report.

MSW

Darlene reported they are having a food drive for Thanksgiving and any extra food goes to Maine Township. They will also be hosting a coat drive this weekend , Saturday and Sunday.

Healthy Community Partnership

John reported the Healthy Community Partnership is still actively working with the schools to raise awareness of skin cancer with Tom Higgins and Dr. Joel Morse. They will meet with Dr. Morse to ask him and the board if they will donate some money, from District 207, to purchase materials for this project. All the kids will benefit from this great project that should unfold in the spring.

Maine East Township High School

Joan reported they had their 1st clinic 10/10/08 and had about 12 people. The school based health center had a fundraiser and sold over 90 tickets! An informative workshop on citizenship will be held 10/16/08 and also 10/24/08 at St. Mary's. Coffee, Cake and Conversation will be on 10/30/08. Maine Township is hosting "Love and Logic" on 10/22/08, given by Joan Lampert.

Kate Kerin: Community volunteer

Kate is in charge of a project called Park Ridge Cares (Kibosho project) that is raising money to build a library in Tanzania. She reported it is doing great, 4 schools have signed up doing coin collection- they have received a couple of thousand dollars from them! Someone will be going to Tanzania in 2 weeks and will report back on where the library will built, about the town, the kids, etc. The Park Ridge Public Library has been very active and helpful! Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, schools and churches, have all been involved as well!

V. COMMUNITY NEEDS

1. Follow-ups

None

2. New Cases

None

VI. ONGOING PROJECTS

Nothing to report.

VII. CLOSING COMMENTS

Nothing to report.

The next meeting will be on November 11, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.

-Mayor's Conference Room-