



Great Falls Inter-Faith Association

March 28th, 2013

Opportunities Inc. –Resource Center

Ray opened the meeting with reading a Psalm and a reading from the Bible and a prayer. Ray asked that we go around the room and introduce ourselves and give any updates with their organization.

February Minutes were read and approved.

Udo gave a treasury report. We currently have \$2,074.64 in the bank. Udo also said that the revised minutes from last month were approved by the bank.

Denise from the Food Bank said that she sent out many Bulletin Inserts for the upcoming Crop Walk and that 40 of them came back, so she was going to try and get them out to those churches. She also said that she had copies of the bulletin inserts at the meeting today, so if we needed any we were welcome to take them.

Ray informed us that Steve, the pastor at First Presbryterian Church had cancer surgery and Pastor Tim at the Echumenical Church has pneumonia. He also said that they would be putting on the Stations of the Cross at First Presbryterian Church on Good Friday.

Joanne a volunteer from the Center for Mental Health said that the Beautiful Minds Walk is June 15th. The Team Captain Kick off is on April 17th at 11:30 at Central Christian Church. Joanne said that 1 in 4 people will experience mental disease in their life. 1 in 17 people will experience serious mental illness. She said that the needs at the Center for Mental Health are steadily rising and with the military personnel coming home it is even more prevelant.

Bethany with NeighborWorks is working on the project Coins for a Cause. This is to hopefully curb pan handling in the downtown area. They are putting jars in local businesses for people to donate and this money goes directly to direct service providers. This year the money will go to the Rescue Mission and they are hoping enough money is raised so that next year they can start a grant process.

Chris and the Homeless Task Force are going to hold a planning session on May 23rd from 8:15 to 12:00 at the Salvation Army (1000 17th Ave. S). They are going to be in need of some easel's. They will break into small groups to identify the needs of specific groups. Ie: Veterans, mental illness, teens, etc. Chris also mentioned that the homeless population could be increasing due to the Rimrock Bus Line being shut down. The Shelby Prison brings a bus of paroles to Great Falls

and literally dumps them by the bus depot and Rescue Mission. Some of them would take the bus to their homes, but now there is no buses running.

Jim said that both sides of the Missin are full and they are very busy. He said they would start moving their offices into the building that Ferrins Furniture is leasing them soon and that they will have enough room for 7-8 families in those vacated spaces. He said they are working on a grant for new beds.

Dave is the new director for the Great Falls Food bank. They have been very busy with the Cantastic project at the Holiday Village Mall and the Boy Scout Food Drive. The Scouts brought in approximately 17,000 lbs. of food.

Joshua has offered the Rescue Mission help with the legal aspects of the move into the new building.

Ray adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted.