

Habitat for Humanity of Merced County Board Meeting Minutes  
January 7, 2017  
Meeting location: St. Paul Lutheran Church Library  
2916 N. McKee Rd. Merced  
Annual Planning Meeting

President (Administration Chair) Jan Sorge	Present
Vice President (Recruitment Chair) Michelle Paloutzian	Present
Secretary (Public Relations) George Gallaher	Present
Treasurer Patti Houbein	Present
ReStore Resource Chair Lyle Allen	Present
Family Selection/Partnership Chair: Nellie Venegas	Excused
Finance Chair Donna Hall	Present
Site Selection Chair Don Spiva	Present
Member at Large Pete Delacruz	Excused
Member at Large Fred Pillsbury	Present
Member at Large Sean Arnold	Present
Member at Large Ida Johnson	6-month sabbatical

9:06 am. Call to order, Jan Sorge President.

**Devotion:** Jan shared "A deck of Cards"

It was quiet that day, the guns and the mortars, and land mines for some reason hadn't been heard. The young soldier knew it was Sunday, the holiest day of the week. As he was sitting there, he got out an old deck of cards and laid them out across his bunk.

Just then an army sergeant came in and said, "Why aren't you with the rest of the platoon?" The soldier replied, "I thought I would stay behind and spend some time with the Lord." The

sergeant said, "Looks to me like you're going to play cards." The soldier said, "No, sir. You see, since we are not allowed to have Bibles or other spiritual books in this country, I've decided to talk to the Lord by studying this deck of cards."

The sergeant asked in disbelief, "How will you do that?"

"You see the Ace, Sergeant? It reminds me that there is only one God. The Two represents the two parts of the Bible, Old and New

Testaments. The Three represents the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost.

The Four stands for the Four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The Five is for the five virgins that were ten but only five of them were glorified. The Six is for the six days it took God to create the Heavens and Earth.

The Seven is for the day God rested after making His Creation.

The Eight is for the family of Noah and his wife, their three sons and their wives - the eight people God spared from the flood that destroyed

the earth.

The Nine is for the lepers that Jesus cleansed of leprosy. He cleansed ten, but nine never thanked Him. The Ten represents the Ten Commandments that God handed down to Moses on tablets made of stone. The Jack is a reminder of Satan, one of God's first angels, but he got kicked out of heaven for his sly and wicked ways and is now the joker of eternal hell.

The Queen stands for the Virgin Mary.

The King stands for Jesus, for he is the King of all kings.

When I count the dots on all the cards, I come up with 365 total, one for every day of the year. There are a total of 52 cards in a deck; each is a week - 52 weeks in a year.

The four suits represent the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Each suit has thirteen cards - there are exactly thirteen weeks in a quarter.

So when I want to talk to God and thank Him, I just pull out this old deck of cards and they remind me of all that I have to be thankful for."

The sergeant just stood there. After a minute, with tears in his eyes and pain in his heart, he said, "Soldier, can I borrow that deck of cards?"

Please let this be a reminder and take time to pray for all of our soldiers who are being sent away, putting their lives on the line fighting for us.

Prayer for the Military. Please keep the wheel rolling. It will only take a few seconds of your time, but it'll be worth it to read on....

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need.

I ask this in the name of Jesus,  
our Lord and Savior. Amen.

When you receive this, please stop for a moment and say a prayer for our servicemen and women all around the world. There is nothing attached, but this can be very powerful. Of all the gifts you could give a Soldier, prayer is the very best one.

**Sharing:** Everyone present shared a good recent experience.

**Site Selection:** Don Spiva, Site Selection chair shared some addresses of possible homes to purchase.

1. 919 "D" St. \$105,000, 5 bedroom 2 bath 1,500 sq. ft. home on 5,000 sq. ft. lot.
2. 2795 Midge Avenue \$116,000, 3 bedroom 1 ½ bath.
3. 650 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> St. \$120,000

The board gave oral permission for Don to make multiple offers on these or any other homes that come up in the near future. The board is concerned that the HUD grant will be lost if we do not act in the next two months. There was concern that if we spend all of our money we will not be in a position to do anything else. It was stated that the City of

Merced should reimburse the organization within a month of being presented with the escrow papers. Don stated a need to set the orientation process in motion and get a family ready to rack-up their sweat equity hours. Jan stated that she would endeavor to have an orientation session on February 11th at the boys and Girls Club in Merced. Don stated that it should be possible to get a set of bullet points from the presentation and have board members give individual orientations. Discussion ensued about having orientation meetings scheduled three or four times a year. George stated that any of the board members should be qualified to explain the process to potential partner families. George is to develop the bullet points and forward them to Don.

**Financial Report:** Patti reported that our financial statements for November and December show that we have enough to purchase a home to rehab but would have precious little left to develop a ReStore or pay for rehabilitating a home. Don stated that there could be hidden costs for lead paint or asbestos abatement. Patti stated that all partner families are caught up with their mortgage payments. Don will apply for more grant monies. Donna stated that perhaps we should be looking for lots outside of Merced. Lyle replied that he recently inspected lots in Planada and the cost was prohibitive. Jan stated that someone has been looking for building sites in Livingston to no avail. It was also noted that the HUD grant is applicable only to property within the Merced city limits. The group discussed the November and December financial reports and approved them.

**ReStore Research:** Lyle reported that things are progressing on the ReStore site. He estimates a cost of about \$1,200 for A.D.A. requirements. Lyle is concerned with a request from PG&E for \$2,500 for an engineering study. Lyle is going to check with our in-house electrician to see if this is necessary. There is a nearby transformer that should be easily tapped and would be adequate for our needs. Lyle will check with Environmental health to be sure there will be no issues with occupying a building that once housed petroleum products and other hazardous materials.

**Self-Assessment::** Jan distributed a self-assessment tool that the board members completed. Jan stated that the assessment would be provided to the board members unable to attend the meeting. Jas sked our secretary to tabulate the results and report the results at our next scheduled board meeting.

**Goal sharing discussing and prioritizing:** Jan asked each member present to orally share their goals for the affiliate for the coming year. The group shared goals, then discussed them and then prioritized the goals the group decided were the most important. The resulting goals are listed below.

1. Restore research and planning
2. Home(s) for a family
3. List of potential partner families
4. Consistent meeting attendance and positive public relations
5. Apply for grants

**Open Discussion:** Michelle shared the current median income for Merced County is \$44,600.00. and that a one-person family would need an income of between \$12,400 to \$20,650. A four-person family would need gross income between \$24,300 to 29,450. It was noted that to keep the monthly payments within the \$750 range with homes costing between of \$110,000 to 130,000 the terms of the loan may need to be extended upwards from twenty years. Lyle stated that the Redevelopment agency's affordable building lots Kept our housing prices more reasonable.

**Meeting adjourned:** at 10:41 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted: George Gallaher, Secretary

1-7-17  
Sign-in sheet

1. George Galbraith

Lyle Allen

Patti Houlihan

Don Spiva

FRED Pillsbury

Denna Hall

Michelle Paloutzian

Ed - Gold

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF MERCED COUNTY

### GOALS

2017

1. Restore research and planning
  - a. Continue determining the feasibility of the proposed Main Street site
  - b. Work with developing the supply chain with potential local contributors
  - c. Find a group of volunteers willing to set-up and staff the operation
2. Home(s) for a family
  - a. purchase a house or two for rehabilitation or a lot to build upon
  - b. appoint a building supervisor and seek volunteers to assist the "Old Guys"
  - c. seek long term solutions to the building site habitable home supply shortage
3. List of potential partner families
  - a. review the family selection process to determine a legal, ethical, and fair method if supplanting the "Family Selection Orientation Sessions"
  - b. develop a corps of dedicated volunteers to assist the Family Selection Committee Chair
  - c. set aside board member meeting time to acquaint board members with the current procedures and determine if they are adequate, need updating, revising, or replacing
4. Consistent meeting attendance and positive public relations
  - a. board members might encourage each other to have good board meeting attendance by exhibiting the habit of good attendance
  - b. Speak about our affiliate in a positive way in every encounter where such an opportunity presents itself.
  - c. board members consider speaking at local service clubs and other organizations
5. Apply for grants
  - a. board members will seek and apply for grants and other forms of affiliate income
  - b. board members will strive to insure grant requirements are met
  - c. develop a system where the grant application process can be shared among several board members