

Habitat for Humanity of Merced County
Minutes March 11, 2008 Meeting #170
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
2916 N. McKee Rd.
Merced, CA 95340

President: Michelle Paloutzian present
Secretary: Mary Ann Reynolds present
Finance Chair: Patti Houbein present
Public Information Chair: Bill Sanford present
Church Relations Chair: Jan Sorge present
Fund Raising Chair: Pat Shay present
Site Selection Chair: Jim Tolladay present
Member-at-Large: Fernando Bravo absent
Visitors: Terry Solano, Shauna Weiss

Vice President: George Gallaher excused
Treasurer: Hilda Miranda absent
Administrative Chair: Donna Hall excused
Volunteer Chair: Patti Houbein present
Family Selection/Partnership: Diane Bair present
Construction Chair: Lyle Allen excused
Member-at-Large: Fred Pillsbury present
Member-at-Large: Genny Mesa present

Call to order: 7:10pm

Devotion: Bill read a passage on how decent housing can change a family's life.

Minutes of February meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: none

Committee Reports:

- A. Administration/ Public Information: Bill reported that Mariposa is now a free-standing Habitat affiliate. A motion was passed to have Bill order more return envelopes. Bill suggested that the Stay-at- Home Tea fund raiser be done before Easter. Genny and George are going to get the mailing out. The Newsletter deadline is May 13th. The cost for a third class mailing permit has increased to \$175. Bill is going to do some in-house research on the cost-effectiveness of getting another permit. It was agreed to terminate our account with Wells Fargo as of April 1st. Bill reported that our new insurance carrier is Lockton. He also reported on the success of the Stanislaus Habitat's annual Choral Concert. Mary Ann asked that a discussion of the feasibility of having a similar choral concert in Merced be put on the agenda for the April Board meeting.
- B. Funding Raising: Pat reported on her visit to the property at Castle to see if it would be a possibility for a Restore site. It is 2400sq. ft., renting for .30 cents per square feet. She is looking into grants that would cover the cost of renting a property for a Restore. She is also looking into the cost of printing locally a brochure for "Cars-for-Home", a donate a car to Habitat scheme.
- C. Family Selection: Diane reported that she has sent out several applications for family selection upon request, but hadn't had any returned. The one applicant whom we have had a credit report on, has not returned his completed application. Mary Ann reported on the February 26th meeting of the Family Selection Committee. It has been decided to collaborate with the Merced

County Housing Authority which is holding a “Home Buyers Expo” at the O’Banion Learning Center, 401 Leshler Dr., Merced, on April 19th from 9am - 1:30pm. Michelle has written a press release and flyer which she will be sending out to United Way and local churches with Gateway Church’s help. Mary Ann has met with Stephanie Busbea, the Resident Services Co-coordinator of the Housing Authority, to discuss joint press releases and flyers which she’ll be sending out to low-income families on their mailing list of over 3,000. Lyle will be contacting KYOS to get the information of the event out on radio. Kathleen McElwain will be helping to be our Spanish interpreter and the Spanish radio station KLOQ will be contacted. On April 19th help will be needed with the Family Selection Orientation. There will be two shifts: (1) 8:30am- 11am and (2) 11:00am-1:30pm.

- D. Family Partnership: Diane reported that Mr. Rosas has injured his back and is unable to work.
- E. Site Selection: Jim reported that we are still in the process of exchanging titles on the three properties in South Merced with the City.
- F. Volunteers: Patti reported that AT&T at Castle wants to volunteer as a group with the construction of houses. Some of their volunteers will be coming to the Family Selection Orientation to learn more of what Habitat does. Patti said she would like a generic volunteer letter to send out as she receives phone calls from interested volunteers.
- G. Finance: Patti reported that the Monterozza’s property taxes are much higher than the Upson’s and that she is going to ask the City to reassess the value of the Monterozza’s property. Michelle reported that Cathy Upson has signed the title to her property.

Old Business:

- A. Annual New Year’s Retreat: Michelle went over more of the “to do list” items from the January 26th retreat meeting in Mariposa.
 - 1. Item #1 - Mortgage process: Lyle, Pat and Patti to work on it.
 - 2. Item #4 - Sex offender database: Shauna Weiss and husband will check database periodically on board members, volunteers and homeowners.
 - 3. Item #4 – Board Roster to U.S. Support Center. Bill has done.
- B. Board Members Expectations and Nominations: Board Members Handbook covers the information on BMs’ responsibilities and the nomination process
- C. Grant Writing Workshop: Pat and Mary Ann reported on the workshop they went to on February 28th and 29th. They are now following up on appropriate bodies to apply to for a grant. Pat is looking into grants for a Restore and Mary Ann is looking into funding for a Executive Director.
- D. Business Plans: Pat has found two business plans on the internet that we can look at.
- E. Gifts-in-Kind: Michelle wants us to explore which companies donate building materials and appliances for Habitat projects.

Next meeting: April 8th, 2008.

Adjourned at 8:55pm.