

**Habitat for Humanity of Merced County
Minutes of February 8, 2011 Meeting #205
St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

President: Michelle Paloutzian, present
Secretary,
Administrative Chair, Donna Hall, excused
Public Information Chair: George Gallaher, present
Site Selection Chair: Jim Tolladay, present
Construction Chair: Lyle Allen, present
Member at Large: Hilda Miranda, absent

Vice President: George Gallaher, present
Treasurer/Finance Chair: Patti Houbein, present
Church Relations Chair: Jan Sorge, present
Family Selection/Partnership:
Member at Large: Pete Delacruz, present
Member at Large: Fred Pillsbury
Matt Hirota: Restore, Present

The meeting was called to order by Michelle Paloutzian at 6:32.

Devotions were read by George Gallaher "Treat It All as Sacred" A story of a young man who couldn't see graves in a cemetery under a layer of pine needles and therefore treated the whole place as sacred. He later applied the same principal to his life and treated all people as special and refrained from judging others or placing values on others etc.
Minutes: The Minutes for December 14, 2010, January 11, 2011 and January 22, 2011 were reviewed. Fred moved and Jim seconded to accept the minutes as presented.
Motion carried.

Michelle stated that she has received a letter of resignation from our secretary Genny Mesa. Genny stated a need to spend more time with her family as the reason for her resignation. Michelle will write a nice letter thanking Genny for her service to the board.

Treasurer's Report: Patti reported that some discussion has occurred around the idea of moving our Post Office Box from Atwater to Merced. The group agreed to pay \$22.00 for six months and to let some of the printed stationery get used before deciding to move our address. The board agreed that an article in the newsletter would need to be published letting donors know where to send donations before obtaining a new mailing address.

The board agreed to allow Kathy Upson's missing payment to be deferred to the end of her obligation. There was some discussion about asking her to check with the money order issuing agent to see if the money order could be traced in case it was stolen or lost in the mail.

Administration: No report.

Public Information: George shared print-outs of both black and white and color photos of our new newsletter heading. The group agreed to use the black and white version. The Atwater UPS Store has given a quote of .20 cents per page for color and .015 cents for black and white page copying.

We will try a free trial offer with IContact.com for distributing our newsletter electronically. George will contact this organization and find out about obtaining their tax free organization rate.

Construction: PG & E will drop the power lines to our Mast Head in a week or two if their tests determine they can use the existing transformer or in a month if they need to mount a new transformer on the power pole in the alley behind the house. Sheet rock hanging is going well. The need for 5/8" sheet rock on the wall close to the property line slowed the process some because of the heaviness of this material. A group of students from Merced College's Christian organization helped Saturday. Lyle ordered the water heater today.

Site Selection: Jim and Lyle will meet in the near future to begin the process for obtaining permits for the next project.

Family Services: Michelle reported on the meeting held the previous Saturday. George offered corrections to the sliding scale for perspective home buyers that was E-mailed earlier this week. Lyle commented on how large the income levels were compared to past figures.

Fund Raising: No report.

Church Relations: Jan Sorge shared that no one came forward offering to purchase a dishwasher for our newest partner family.

Volunteers: Jan stated that she has found some volunteers to work on family selection and the newsletter committees. Jan will continue to find people to help with various aspects of our ongoing efforts to build homes for families in need in Merced County.

Restore: Matt reported that Los Banos has a warehouse for its ReStore and that he is planning on talking with the members of that affiliate about the process of starting a ReStore. Matt also reported that he is in contact with Atwater Iron and Metal about a recycling center on their premises. There is a building on their property that once served as a surplus store that might do well as a ReStore. Matt stated that he is having some difficulty with the Atwater Planning Department in regards to his efforts in starting a recycling center. He hopes that once he is past that hurdle it will be easier to work with them on a ReStore.

George will begin revising the family selection presentation and will update the minimum and maximum income levels in accordance with HUD data.

Hands On Networking Meeting:

Michelle stated that this organization is having a meeting from 11:30 to 1:30 Thursday February 17th at the Merc3ed United Way Office. She urged anyone who can, to attend and represent our group; we are signed up with this group to receive volunteers.

Merco Bicycle Classic:

March 5, 2010 Jan will get volunteers to man a booth at this event. Michelle and Jan will be there and will train five volunteers to man booths in hopes of using them for other events throughout the year.

Upson's Mortgage:

See the discussion under Treasurer's Report above.

Board Commitment Form:

Michelle asked board members to compare the Board Commitment Form submitted by Jan to the Board Expectations sheet and our by-laws to see if we could combine the two documents ensuring that they conform to our bylaws. Jan stated that board members need to attend board meetings on a regular basis if they hope to be informed on the issues and discussions. She stated that just reading the minutes doesn't provide any insightfulness as to the content of the discussions and ideas provided and exchanged during the meetings. Pete stated that the Boys and Girls Club charged a \$100.00 fee to be board members. Jan stated that one organization she belongs to has a \$1,000.00 commitment which can be either a tax deductible donation or paying for non-reimbursable expenses for trips and other board related expenses. The group agreed to read the three documents and come next time prepared to combine the two board documents into one.

Barbara Allen Plaque:

Lyle has the new plaque with the agreed upon wording ready for installation at the current building site.

Home Dedication date:

Jan suggested that we tentatively set aside April 9, 2011 as the date for the home dedication. Lyle stated that the home should be done in April. Jan and Pete both agree that the dedication needs to be on a Saturday. There will be further discussion on the final date as the home gets closer to completion. The family can move in once a certification of occupancy is issued by the city.

Adobe Software:

Jan moved and Pete seconded a motion to allow Michelle to order two Adobe software titles through Tech soup at a cost of \$160.00 or less. Motion Carried.

Bill Winnie, a volunteer for the Family Selection Committee showed up early for that meeting and was introduced to the board.

Michelle invited anyone interested to stay for the family selection committee meeting.

Fred moved and Jim seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried
The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by George Gallaher acting secretary

