

Habitat for Humanity of Merced County Board Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2015
Meeting Location: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Outreach Ministry Center
2916 N. McKee Rd. Merced CA
Meeting # 261

President (Administration Chair) Jan Sorge	Present
Vice President, (Nominating Chair) Michelle Paloutzian	Present
Secretary: (Public Relations) Chair George Gallaher	Present
Treasurer: (Finance Committee Chair) Patti Houbein	Excused
Construction Chair: Lyle Allen	Present
Family Selection/Partnership Chair: Nellie Venegas	Present
Finance Committee: Donna Hall	Present
Site Selection Chair: Don Spiva	Present
Member at Large Pete Delacruz	Present
Member at Large: Fred Pillsbury	Present
Member at Large: Brittany Oakes	Excused
Member at Large: Sean Arnold	Excused
Member at Large: Ida Johnson	Excused

6:30 p.m. Call to Order Jan Sorge President.

Due to George's absence,, Jan asked Fred to take minutes for the meeting.

Devotion: "Rite of Passage" by Fred Pillsbury. IT was about young Cherokee Indian lads rite of passage into manhood. His father takes him into the forest, blindfolds him and leaves him alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not remove the blindfold until the rays of the morning sun shine through it. He cannot cry out for help to anyone. Once he survives the night, he is a MAN. He is terrified, he hears all kinds of noises and imagines all kinds of wild beasts around him. After a horrific night the sun appeared and he removed his blindfold. Then he discovered his father sitting on the stump next to him. He had been at watch the entire night, protecting his son from harm. We, too, are never alone. Even when we don't know it, God is watching over us, sitting on the stump beside us. When trouble comes, all we have to do is reach out to Him. Just because you can't see God, doesn't mean He is not there. For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Excused absences: Patti Houbein, Sean Arnold, Brittany Oakes, Ida Johnson.

Guests: No guests.

October minutes: Accepted as presented.

Financial Report: No report due to Treasurer Patti Houbein being on vacation in Ecuador. She gave Jan the checkbook to pay any bills and to make deposits while she is

gone. Jan reported everyone has made payments on their loans, but Aurora made half a payment instead of a full one.

Administration: Jan reported that the deadline had passed for the Capacity Building Grant from Habitat, will try again next year. Money collected for the HomeTown Buffet Lunch fundraiser so only one remaining to pay and then we will have a profit of \$637.50. The raffle from the Annual Dinner amounted to \$133.00. Ashley Williams and Sandy , ReStore Manager were the featured speakers for the program. They were very informative about how they started their ReStore and it is run entirely by volunteers with always one board member present. They are moving into a former car dealership on Main Street in Los Banos and paying \$400 a month rent. They are making an average of \$3000 a month at the ReStore. The City is very supportive as it saves all those items from being thrown into the landfill. Big companies going out of business are a good source of items for them as they got a lot of items from Lowe's and Orchard Supply when they closed their stores.

Everyone enjoyed the dinner, good food, good program and good conversations. The plastic dishes & silverware were washed so they could be used again. They were left over from a funeral luncheon earlier in the day. It was agreed to have Jan put the Potluck/Annual meeting on the church calendar for the last Saturday in October 2016 so we don't have a conflict like we had this year with the school's 50's night. Everyone really likes the idea of putting your tickets in a little brown bag by the gift you really want – makes it more fun and practical.

Kathy Upson received an insurance bill from Travelers' and wrote a letter asking if her insurance was cancelled. Jan called Travelers and explained we had changed insurance companies for a local one and was told to disregard the bill. She called Kathy to reassure her she had insurance.

The board planning meeting is set for Saturday, January 9th from 9 a.m. to noon with sub sandwiches for lunch. It will be in the OMC Conference room where we have our monthly board meetings. Start thinking of ideas, goals and short and long range planning to give to Jan before the planning session.

Public Information: George was absent.

Construction: Lyle reported that he and a few of the guys plus Don had looked at some possible rehabs. Only one seemed feasible but the guys need to go back over and make some more accurate costs of what it would take and if it is still a practical choice. Lyle will come up with a plan of what to look for when they go see a possible house for Rehab so they have a better idea of what it would cost to do it. Jan will give him a Brush with Kindness form as it has a good format for this very thing. He is looking for a replacement as Construction Chair and will keep us informed if some of the guys are willing to take it over for the next build. He doesn't have a final cost for the repairs on Budina's house; Patti will have that for the next meeting.

Family Services: Nell invited the Habitat families to the Annual Diner and several came, she has mailed the letter to them explaining that they will be making home visits to see if anyone needs help with repairs, etc. Also, once the home is paid for, explain they are

responsible for paying taxes & insurance. Isabel Castro's home is in need of some repairs her sister explained at the Annual Dinner. Jan will mail her a Brush with Kindness form to fill out as to what is needed. Fred brought sixteen calendars for 2016 for Nell to give to the Habitat families as she and her committee make the home visits.

Site Selection: Don reported that the two story house may be in the process of being sold. He will continue to look for lots. Jan emailed him about the houses listed in the paper for sale because of back payments of taxes. He called and was too late so put his name in to be called next time as there were lots for \$12,000. This is an ideal way to obtain lots and/or houses to rehab at a low cost without any obligations to anyone else. He will keep looking. It looks like a good way to go in the future.

Church Relations: Jan is emailing an article each month to the churches in Atwater and Merced regarding our events and inviting people who are interested to attend our board meetings. She challenged each board member to be on the look out for new board members – especially someone with legal expertise, fundraising, marketing and a volunteer chair.

Volunteers: The next Orientation will be Wednesday, January 13th from 7-8 p.m. at the OMC at St. Paul. Jan really wants a Volunteer Chair to take responsibility to do the Orientations as well as recruit volunteers for booths at community events and any help needed for Brush with Kindness or anything else. Contact her if you know of anyone who would be willing to do this.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Fred Pillsbury, notetaker for George Gallaher

Calendar:

Saturday, November 28, Put up Christmas trees at Historic Courthouse 1 p.m.

Monday, December 21 – Board meeting and Social at Sorges, 2842 Wainwright Ave.
Merced – bring appetizers to share

Saturday, January 9 – 9 a.m. – noon – ANNUAL PLANNING DAY at St. Paul OMC

Wednesday, January 13 - 7-8 p.m. Volunteer Orientation, St. Paul OMC