

Habitat for Humanity of Merced County Board Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2015

Meeting Location: St Paul Lutheran Church, Outreach Ministry Center

2916 McKee Rd, Merced CA

Meeting # 259

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

6:31 p.m. Call to order Jan Sorge, President

Devotion: Lyle read the following letter: Letter to President Pierce, 1855 From Chief Seattle

Chief Seattle (1786-1866) was the leader of the Dewamish and other Pacific Northwest tribes. The city of Seattle, Washington, bears his name. In 1854, Chief Seattle reluctantly agreed to sell tribal lands to the U.S. government and move to the government-established reservations.

We know that the white man does not understand our ways. One portion of the land is the same to him as the next, for he is a stranger who comes in the night and takes from the land whatever he needs. The earth is not his brother, but his enemy and when he has conquered it, he moves on. He leaves his fathers' graves, and his children's birthright is forgotten. The sight of your cities pains the eyes of the red man. But perhaps it is because the red man is a savage and does not understand.

There is no quiet place in the white man's cities. No place to hear the leaves of spring or the rustle of insect's wings. But perhaps because I am a savage and do not understand, the clatter only seems to insult the ears. The Indian prefers the soft sound of the wind darting over the face of the pond, the smell of the wind itself cleansed by a mid-day rain, or scented with the pinion pine. The air is precious to the red man. For all things share the same breath- the beasts, the trees, the man. Like a man dying for many days, he is numb to the stench. What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, men would die from great loneliness of spirit, for whatever happens to the

beasts also happens to man. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth.

It matters little where we pass the rest of our days; they are not many. A few more hours, a few more winters, and none of the children of the great tribes that once lived on this earth, or that roamed in small bands in the woods, will be left to mourn the graves of a people once as powerful and hopeful as yours.

The whites, too, shall pass- perhaps sooner than other tribes. Continue to contaminate your bed, and you will one night suffocate in your own waste. When the buffalo are all slaughtered, the wild horses all tamed, the secret corners of the forest heavy with the scent of many men, and the view of the ripe hills blotted by talking wires, where is the thicket? Gone. Where is the eagle? Gone. And what is it to say goodbye to the swift and the hunt, the end of living and the beginning of survival? We might understand if we knew what it was that the white man dreams, what he describes to his children on the long winter nights, what visions he burns into their minds, so they will wish for tomorrow. But we are savages. The white man's dreams are hidden from us.

"The President in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land. But how can you buy or sell the sky? the land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them?"

Every part of the earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every meadow, every humming insect. All are holy in the memory and experience of my people.

We know the sap which courses through the trees as we know the blood that courses through our veins. We are part of the earth and it is part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters. The bear, the deer, the great eagle, these are our brothers. The rocky crests, the dew in the meadow, the body heat of the pony, and man all belong to the same family.

The shining water that moves in the streams and rivers is not just water, but the blood of our ancestors. If we sell you our land, you must remember that it is sacred. Each glossy reflection in the clear waters of the lakes tells of events and memories in the life of my people. The water's murmur is the voice of my father's father.

The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst. They carry our canoes and feed our children. So you must give the rivers the kindness that you would give any brother.

If we sell you our land, remember that the air is precious to us, that the air shares its spirit with all the life that it supports. The wind that gave our grandfather his first breath also received his last sigh. The wind also gives our children the spirit of life. So if we sell our land, you must keep it apart and sacred, as a place where man can go to taste the wind that is sweetened by the meadow flowers.

Will you teach your children what we have taught our children? That the earth is our mother? What befalls the earth befalls all the sons of the earth.

This we know: the earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.

One thing we know: our God is also your God. The earth is precious to him and to harm the earth is to heap contempt on its creator.

Your destiny is a mystery to us. What will happen when the buffalo are all slaughtered? The wild horses tamed? What will happen when the secret corners of the forest are heavy with the scent of many men and the view of the ripe hills is blotted with talking wires? Where will the thicket be? Gone! Where will the eagle be? Gone! And what is to say goodbye to the swift pony and then hunt? The end of living and the beginning of survival.

When the last red man has vanished with this wilderness, and his memory is only the shadow of a cloud moving across the prairie, will these shores and forests still be here? Will there be any of the spirit of my people left?

We love this earth as a newborn loves its mother's heartbeat. So, if we sell you our land, love it as we have loved it. Care for it, as we have cared for it. Hold in your mind the memory of the land as it is when you receive it. Preserve the land for all children, and love it, as God loves us.

As we are part of the land, you too are part of the land. This earth is precious to us. It is also precious to you.

One thing we know - there is only one God. No man, be he Red man or White man, can be apart. We ARE all brothers after all."

Excused absences: Sean Arnold, Fred Pillsbury, Michelle Paloutzian, Ida Johnson, Brittany Oakes

Guests: No guests

August minutes: Accepted as presented.

Financial report: Jan read the following E-mail:

Hi Jan,

Will be unable to attend the meeting and wanted to get info to you for the meeting.

Everyone is up to date on their mortgage payments

I sent in the request for our raffle for the Annual Dinner

There are repairs to Rosa's house that were made--are we responsible for them or is she? I marked the one on the financials for this month and there's another payment in September to Lawler Excavation for \$1 ,620. I need to know where to post them. They weren't included in escrow because I didn't know about them.

There is a credit of \$3,599 for refund of water connection fee which is for Project 14 so that would partly offset if the Board wants me to post that to Rosa's mortgage. Again it came in after we did the escrow total.

Have we closed escrow on Project 14? Can I get a copy of the financial page?

Liquid (subtracting out the bond) in the bank as of today \$77,116. I wanted the Board to have a clear picture of our financial position if we're talking about buying a house to rehab.

I believe the vote was to have Don and Lyle start looking for a house to buy to rehab. Since we have to front the money for that, wouldn't we be better off to go back to the plan to buy a lot? We were worried that the City wouldn't reimburse us but we're putting even more at risk if we buy a house. But I think Don thought that a house fit more into what would be reimbursable--maybe that's why a house instead of a lot. Just something I was thinking about.

Sorry I can't be there,

Patti

Jan stated the Escrow is closed and that she will get the financial page to Patti.

Administration: Jan stated that she is up to date with all communications.

Public Information: No report.

Construction: Lyle reported that orangeburg pipe in the alley behind the 8th St. home had flattened and needed to be replaced with the work needing to be done by a certified contractor. Moved by Lyle and seconded by Donna that the difference between the final cost as stated on the escrow documents and the final cost after the sewer line repair on the

eighth street house be assumed by HfH Merced with the difference in cost being partially offset with the water connection refund from the City of Merced. Budina's home is green tagged. PG &E will set the meter in the near future. After the meter is set, the wiring will be checked and a certificate of occupancy will be obtained. Jan and Larry have some donated furniture for this home. We are losing our free storage September 30th. The cost for the storage is \$169.00 per month. Lyle moved and Don seconded paying the rent on the unit for two to three months until a suitable facility can be found for the items in storage. Motion carried.

Family Services: Need to contact Aurora about the netting for her trampoline. Nellie and team will begin family visitations when Ida returns from vacation.

Church Relations: Golf Information has been sent to churches and organizations.

Volunteers: Two people attended the volunteer orientation. Next orientation is set for the near future. Brittany is working on volunteer projects.

Site Selection: Don listed some homes that are for sale that could be rehabilitated.

1722 Heritage Drive \$85,000 \$10 to \$15 thousand to make habitable.

East 22nd St. \$90,000.

1192 Dale Avenue, rough house, \$85,000. \$20,00 to fix up needs new roof.

1615 Rose Avenue \$90,000.

461 East San Pedro Street, build in 2007 3 bedrooms 2 bath 1,080 sq. ft., \$98,000.

Lyle will take some of the construction guys and look at some of these homes in the near future to see if they meet our needs.

Unfinished & new business:

Golf tournament: Don has contacted many businesses and has obtained promises of sponsorships. Everything is progressing well.

Everyone read and completed board quality assurance checklist. Jan will compile answers and forward them to HfH International.

Jan read the covenant to the group. Donna Moved and Nellie seconded to certify the board adheres to the covenant. Motion carried. Jan will submit the proper forms on-line to HfH International.

Donna shared an aerial photo of a large lot on Thirteenth Street between "G" Street and "M" Street. Donna stated that the lot might be a great place to build several homes and, perhaps, place a ReStore on "Bill Sanford Drive". The group agreed that this is a good idea that might be considered a long-term project. Don will investigate who owns the land and will report back in the future.

Jan has placed many advertisements for the Golf Tournament and expects a great turnout.

Meeting adjourned: 8:05 P.M.

George Gallaher, Secretary

Habitat for Humanity of Merced County, Inc.
Board Meeting Sign-in September 21, 2015

1 George W. Gallaher

2 Jan Arce

3 Don Smith

4 Lyle Allen

5 Nellie Venegas

6 Pete Delacruz

7 Danna Hall

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Calendar:

October 3 – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.- HOME TOWN BUFFET
FUNDRAISER LUNCH

October 9 – Golf Tournament, Rancho Del Rey, Atwater 11:00 am.

October 19 – Monday, 6:30 p.m. Board meeting – St. Paul Lutheran OMC
Devotion: Ida Johnson

November 7 – Annual meeting/potluck, St. Paul Lutheran OMC
5:30 p.m.

November 16 – Monday, 6:30 p.m. Board meeting – St. Paul Lutheran OMC
Devotion: Fred Pillsbury

December 21 – Monday, 6:30 p.m. Christmas gathering – bring appetizers to
Share – short board meeting
Devotion: Donna Hall