

Habitat for Humanity of Merced County Board Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2015

Meeting Location: St Paul Lutheran Church, Outreach Ministry Center

2916 McKee Rd, Merced CA

Annual Planning Meeting

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

1:05 p.m. Call to order Jan Sorge, President

Excused Absences: Pete Delacruz, Donna Hall, Nellie Venegas

Guests: Don Spiva, Ida Johnson

Ice Breaker: Meeting attendees shared their first encounter with Habitat for Humanity and something good that happened to them within the past week.

Devotion: Jan read a responsive devotional titled: "A LITANY FOR THE NEW YEAR"

Narrator: Our Father, we stand here tonight on the brink of a new year. And as we look back over 2014, we are aware of Your many blessings and mercies. You kept us through the drastic cold and storms of the winter; You gave us a bountiful growing season, and an autumn filled with beautiful days.

Response: "I will praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth all Thy marvelous works." (Psalm 9:1)

Narrator: Dear Lord, as we look back over the past 365 days, we realize that the year has been more than a circling around the sun. It has been laughter and tears, joys and frustrations and disappointments, but through it all, it's been an opportunity to grow in You and live in You.

Response: We have delighted ourselves in Thee, Lord, and You have given us the desires of our heart. (Paraphrase of Psalm 37:4) You have wiped away our tears and strengthened our hearts.

Narrator: Thus, Lord, You have not only given us physical blessings, but spiritual blessings as the days and seasons rolled by. As we did our housework or marketing, as we picnicked by the lake or vacationed in the mountains, You were there. When the sun poured through kitchen windows on happy days, You were there; and when in the dark nights we tossed on our beds in pain or turmoil, You were there.

Response: "If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me." (Psalm 139: 9, 10)

Narrator: We are sorry, Lord, for the mistakes we made in 2014, for the things we didn't do and should have done, for the precious time we wasted serving ourselves instead of you. Help us to get rid of bad habits and attitudes and strive for holiness. And we thank You that You understand our weaknesses and forgive our sins through Jesus, our Lord.

Response: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalm 139: 23, 24)

Narrator: And, Father, as we stand here today and look out over the year ahead, it is with fear and trepidation. 2015 seems gloomy with crisis all around us ...the energy crisis, spiraling-inflation, drugs and the occult, and the explosive situations in the Mid-East. Sometimes it seems that War and desecration are inevitable. Dear Lord, please deliver us from evil! You promised to be with us unto the ends of the world ...make us aware of your nearness.

Response: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." (Psalm 23:4)

Narrator: Father, the whole world is in Your hands. Have mercy upon us. Take us upon the giant wings of Your Spirit and carry us through the unknown days of the year ahead of us. And we will praise You, the King of Glory; the Lord of Hosts; the God of 2015.

Response: "The Lord shall preserve Thy going out and Thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore." (Psalm 121: 8)

Excused absences: Donna Hall, Nellie Venegas, Pete Delacruz

Board assessment: Two assessments were distributed and participants individually completed the "Board Assessment Tool" and "Assessing the Board of Directors". Jan explained that "Assessing the Board of Directors" was completed last year and that the board will compare the results from last year with this year's results to see areas of growth and areas of concern. Jan went on to further explain that the other assessment tool, "board assessment tool" was for members to use as a personal guide to assess individual strengths and weaknesses.

Each member share three 2015 goals for the affiliate: Three goals were written on large sheets of paper affixed to the wall by each person present at the meeting. After the goals were posted on the wall, each person explained their goals and the reasons they believe they are important. After the explanations and discussions of the goals, members voted on which goals should be our three highest priority goals. Duplicate goals were combined with starting a ReStore proving to be priority one. Priority two concerned fundraising and finding people to man a fundraising committee. The third priority was centered on marketing and increasing our presence and recognition within our community. It also encompassed working with other non-profits and finding a volunteer coordinator. Jan noted that the current goals are quite similar to the goals from the previous year.

Discussion: Jan stated that the Director of the Stanislaus affiliate contacted her regarding a potential merger. Jan stated that she politely declined stating that we are happy with things as they are. Jan went on to say that she has talked with people from the Los Banos affiliate and they are interested in working with us and other affiliates and that they are planning a women's build in the near future and are more than glad to welcome anyone from Merced who wants to participate. Jan went on to say that our affiliate needs to become more proactive in the area of contacting partners who become late with their mortgage payments. There was discussion about the partner who wants to allow her payments to be taken over by one of her children. The consensus of the board is that we need to use the existing family selection process if this partner no longer wishes to live in her home. This process would not guarantee the children of the partner ownership of the home. Rather the home would go to the family participating on the selection process that is most qualified which may or may not be the partner's daughter and her husband. Many members present thought that the partner might be better served if she sold her home, took her equity leaving HfH Merced's equity available for the building of another partner home. All agreed this situation seems to have no easy solution in which all parties will be happy. Jan distributed tickets for the Flapjack Fundraiser. Jan encouraged all board members to be there to help put our best foot forward. Jan suggested that we pass out "Share Cards" to all Flapjack patrons. The group discussed raffling a ride in a sailplane, but decided that it might be better to wait for a venue with more potential customers. We may, instead, raffle a tee shirt at the breakfast.

Prioritize Goals:

1. Starting a ReStore.
2. Fundraising and finding people to man a fundraising committee.
3. Marketing and increasing our presence and recognition within our community.

Who will work on what?: Site Selection Committee: Don Spiva and April Gill will work with Jim Tolladay and Lyle Allen to start the process for obtaining the next building site.

Family Services Committee: Nellie Venegas, Pete Delacruz and Ida Johnson will visit our Habitat families to encourage them and offer assistance if they need help with budget counseling, etc.

Michelle and her committee will continue to recruit new board members.

Brittany Oakes and Sean Arnold will continue searching for grants, increase our marketing presence in the community and seek to partner with other groups within our community.

Donna Hall will be working with Patti Houbein in financial forecasts, developing a budget and a system for tracking mortgage payments a tool to increase payment amounts to reflect tax increases and insurance rates change.

George Gallaher will work on publishing the newsletter four times a year and will work with Michelle Paloutzian to update our family selection orientation PowerPoint.

Don Spiva will work with the board of realtors to help find a suitable ReStore location.

Meeting adjourned: 3:30 p.m.

George Gallaher, Secretary

Habitat for Humanity of Merced County

Location:

OMC ST PAC

Date:

1/31/15

Name

Address

City/Zip

Phone

E-mail

- 1 Michelle Palantziou
- 2 April Bell
- 3 Ken Long
- 4 Matt Houlihan
- 5 FRED O'NEILL
- 6 George Golden
- 7 J - Kelly
- 8 Brittany Oakes
- 9 Bob Silva
- 10 Kyle Allen
- 11 Ida Johnson
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.