

Manchester Initiative for Supportive Housing

Minutes of May 23, 2007

Attendees: Susan Holmes, Joan O'Loughlin, Tim Woods, Lisa Mazzola, Sr. Frances Randall, Joan Troy, Martha DiGiovanni, Rev. Karen Fedorchak, Dianne McPherson, Boris Gerber, Edith Gerber, Aileen Lora, Jack Cotter, Jody Wynn Rodiger, Joe Adams, Joan Dower, Darren King, Kathleen Grover, Sue Hadge, Gary Sweet, Amelia Staj, and Peg DeForge.

Chair: David Blackwell

Reflection: David read the Parable of the Talents. With the Forum behind us, we will need everyone's talents for the many tasks ahead.

Upon motion duly made and second, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of April 12, 2007.

Announcements:

Jody will show a PowerPoint presentation after the meeting on Connecticut Housing Program for Economic Growth. She also has information about a Mutual Housing group in New Haven that is working on supportive housing.

Bob Albert showed the Reaching Home video to the Manchester Human Relations Commission.

Sue Hadge and Edith Gerber went to a training session at Corporation for Supportive Housing.

There is a free grant writing seminar in August. David Blackwell has information for anyone interested.

David announced that his application for a CBDG grant for \$10,000 was approved. He also said that the Corporation for Supportive Housing will give us \$5,000. We will be able to use this money to hire a consultant to work with MISH and MISAC.

Incorporation of MISH / Merger

David talked about Manchester Congregations' Housing Corporation (MCHC), a non-profit corporation that has been inactive and is willing to become our formal supportive housing corporation. There are ten congregations in MCHC:

- Center Congregation Church
- Community Baptist Church
- Concordia Lutheran Church
- Emanuel Lutheran Church
- North United Methodist Church
- South United Methodist Church
- St. James Church
- St. Mary's Episcopal Church
- Temple Beth Shalom
- Unitarian Universalist Society East

Only about five of these congregations have a representative at present. One thing to note, there is a sum of \$1,950 that may or may not need to be repaid to the state (monies given to MCHC in 1995 which MCHC believed was a grant).

Role of formal organization vs. MISH. David Smith, President of MCHC is going to contact all the congregations asking if they are interested in staying a part of MCHC. A majority of members makes a quorum. Each member has a representative. We can also add other churches as members. If your congregation is a member of MCHC and has no representative, you will need to get approval from your church to be on the Board. If your congregation is not a member of MCHC and would like to become one, we would need a letter from your congregation noting their interest and appointing a representative. Board members have a fiduciary duty to the corporation. As far as liability, unless there's serious wrongdoing, you are liable up to the amount that you are paid.

Our next meeting will be on June 13. We would have MCHC board members at that meeting. We would begin with a meeting of MCHC and, in presence of all of the MISH members, a list of potential directors will be presented. The MCHC board will vote on that slate of directors. We would then continue with our MISH meeting.

We discussed different ways the formal organization could look: all MISH members could become members of MCHC; we could have more than one representative from each member congregation; we could have a representative and an alternate from each member congregation. There are five member-at-large slots. There's no reason why we couldn't have a set number of board members who cast votes, and also have other people with less formal obligations that do not vote. There are some members of MISH who cannot attend all the meetings or because of conflicts may not be able to be part of a formal organization. We may want to keep the committees in MISH. The formal organization would be a non-profit and have 501(c)3 IRS tax-exempt status. Any monies the corporation receives are not taxable and any monies donated to the corporation would be tax deductible.

We discussed the pros and cons of changing the formal corporation name to MISH. A plus is MISH's name recognition. However, if we leave MISH as an informal entity, it would not be as limited and could take on other projects in the future. A suggestion from Kathleen Grover to leave MISH as it is and have MCHC be the formal corporation was well received. There was also a suggestion that the formal name of the corporation be changed to a "real" name, not an acronym.

David explained that the grant money we get from CBDC, would be used to hire a consultant to figure out what MISAC can do next. MISAC will have monies two or three years down the road once mortgage is paid and will be looking to use their capital. They would like to explore the possibility of putting some money into supportive housing. The consultant can also help us look at sources of development money, and guide us through the questions of who we will serve, the needs of the community, etc.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept MCHC as our corporate body and keep MISH as our informal advocacy organization.

Committees

Sign-up sheets were passed around the room, one for each Committee and also one for the formal Board of MCHC. People were encouraged to put their names down on any committees they would like to serve on. The Committees are:

- Site Acquisition Committee - investigation of possible sites
- Services Committee - Targeting clientele
- Communications/Community Awareness Committee - need to keep spreading the word about MISH
- Core Group Committee - identifying leaders in Manchester and obtaining their support

Communications: Dianne McPherson agreed to take the minutes; Joan Dower will help with communication of the meetings; Peg DeForge will help with the yahoo website.

David's final charge to the group: decide what capacity you want to serve. Talk to others from your organizations to see who would like to serve formally on the Board.

Submitted by: Dianne McPherson

Revised: June 13, 2007