

Natural Step Environmental Care Meeting
August 13, 2017; 11:45am

Present at the meeting were Ann Bateman, Corinne Butzin, Rebecca Marti, Marge Stevens, Karen Bloom, Ron Leonard, Sara Power, Helen Van Nice, Marian Veley, and Robin Comforto.

We opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the previous meeting (June 25) were approved.

Open Streets: Coordination for next Sunday's Open Streets fair was discussed. Our booth will be located at Garfield Park. We'll need transportation to get items such as table and display board for the booth to Garfield Park. Ann will provide transportation of the items to the park, and Karen will bring the things back at the end of the event. The event is 12 noon to 4pm. Marian and Ann will work the booth from noon to 2pm. Marge and Karen will work the booth from 2pm to 4pm. We need a big basket of ribbons for the blessings of the bicycles (anode for that Karen will contact Beverly Park).

For the new Interfaith Climate Justice committee, Karen has been attending meetings. Next meeting will happen Wednesday August 23. Last meeting was August 9th. People arrive as early as 7pm, in the Martha Room here at FUMC. Meeting starts at 7:30. Jeanette Hardison spoke at the last meeting; she is writing a grant application (about food waste) which is up to \$80,000; DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) is the grantor. She is looking at church communities to apply for things like apps for phones that help with appropriate shopping, talking about how to reduce food waste, etc. Consumer food waste is among the biggest problems humanity faces with regard to the environment and world hunger. The group is discussing and looking at lots of things including the grant, working

with other groups (such as CSC's Waste Prevention Team). If more people from our group could attend these meetings, it would be a good thing. There is also a Google Group for this committee, meeting now every two weeks.

Edible Garden: We need watering and harvesting help. Karen will put out a schedule on this. There is a key involved with watering. Rebecca and Corinne volunteered to help for some shifts during the 2-week period that Karen will be gone (starting August 29). Wednesday is when Karen usually takes the harvest to the food bank. Karen will be gone through two Wednesdays. Corinne will do Sundays and Rebecca Wednesdays. Next year we'd like to get an FUMC group to do the watering since there may not be funds available for this (Raab Grant), and Karen is thinking of asking the FUMC Rose Garden people do the watering next season. Weeding around the beds also needs to be kept up. Must have all Raab funds spent well in advance of November 1 this year so that Robin can do a financial report on the grant monies received for 2017, plus reporting on previous grant funds received .

Water bottle sales: We are at the breaking point where we've covered all our expenses and so any sales from here on out are pure profit for our team. Ministry Fair at FUMC is September 10. How many water bottles should we set aside for new member giveaway? Do we want to lower the price? These decisions will be put off till next meeting.

Brochures: We have 100 new (updated) Unusual Recyclables brochures that have been made. We've recycled the old ones that contained no date. We'll put up some of the new brochures around the church. Corvallis-area Reuse Directory should also be made available (paired with this brochure) and Marge will take care of getting these to the church. We'll include these with the Ministry Fair.

LED bulb distribution: This can also go into the Ministry Fair. We still have LED bulbs to give to people. We could give these away during the Ministry Fair. What about having these available at Open Streets Fair? They'll be gone in no time if we do this. Karen will look into getting these transported to our FUMC Open Streets booth.

Curbside Cleanup: Marian is taking the Responsible position for this. Karen will do support.

Football Parking: We have home football game dates now. We'll be hearing from people as the dates approach. These are on Saturdays. Marge is now the Responsible person and Sara is Supporting.

Clothing Swap: This is a quarterly event, that is led by a group outside FUMC, held in the FUMC community center. This group needs help in learning what is recyclable and what is yard waste, etc. We also have a problem with Vina Moses when they hold their annual rummage sale here. Marge will do orientation on waste management with both groups. Karen will try to get educated as a Master Recycler as well.

Writing an Environmental Care brochure: Helen is Responsible person and Karen is Supporting for this. These are the same people who are responsible and supporting for writing articles for the FUMC newsletter.

Our moniker on the website: We're an Environmental Care team and we use the Natural Care framework as our guide for the team. We need to update our website to reflect this. There is a plan in place to update the website. We can put our request in and see what happens.

Environmental cleanup at church functions: We need someone to help make this easier for groups using our facilities. Sara shared some ideas. She is taking the lead on this. We could put a sign on the

coffee stir-sticks container that these are compostable. Also will be looking for some large yogurt containers to collect these into for after they are used.

Field trips: Ron spoke about a Talking Waters field trip in September (Albany). The only Saturday where there isn't a home game is the 16th. 9am would be a good time to do a field trip. Could we use Tuck Transport? Ron will look into this possibility. Riparian zone training is another idea, learning about plants and other wildlife alongside rivers. Ron is deeply involved in the Salmon Watch program, especially in educating youth on this topic. Karen will put Ron in touch with the Tucks about Saturday, 16th September for a 9am field trip, back by noon. Our newsletter article for September should be written soon (Karen and Helen) and a short piece about the field trip should be inserted soon, with an immediate deadline approaching.

As part of the newsletter article and field trip discussion, it was brought up that we should do a field trip to Coffin Butte Landfill. This is an item for future discussion.

Fall environmental movie night: We've got so much to do, it might be that we won't get to this. Dates are filling up fast for everything. We'll take this off the agenda for now. Maybe during winter we can do something.

We decided on dates for the next six meetings (through August 2018). Robin will turn in the room scheduling form to the office.

We ended the meeting with prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Comforto