

Attendance: Jon Spira-Savett, John Rowntree, Tom Woodward, Kristy Besada, Jim Jensen, Karl Hester, Matthew Hodgkiss, Rich Bensinger, Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Sally Newhall, Brian Crawford, Meg Hamm, Kim Hester, Nonny Egbuonu, Anna Molettieri, Aron DiBacco, Mike Apfelberg, Meta Vornehm, Rebecca Green, Pam Wellman, Kelly Turney, Allison Palm, Pam Deres

Invitation to blessing - Jon Spira-Savett

Breakout groups: ask questions about faith traditions.

Focus: Housing/Affordable Housing/Shelter

Pam Wellman (Family Promise): homelessness has many faces. Not just the people on park benches. You can't see homelessness. People you see everyday may be experiencing homelessness. Greater Nashua has a stunning collaborative environment for helping reduce/end homelessness.

Mike Apfelberg (United Way): Recent changes: Family Promise has moved and expanded. Expansion at NSKS that will add more emergency shelter. SNHRM has an expansion project to add a women's shelter. Stepping Stones is addressing youth homelessness, and the Youth Homelessness subcommittee is working on a host-homes program.

What are capacity needs? Pam: even with the new facility, it's not nearly enough. Family Promise is looking to expand to Rockingham County. 12% increase in family homelessness this year, mostly due to circumstances beyond anyone's control. Mike: The more capacity we have, the more need there will be. We will become a magnet for people needing resources as we add capacity. Manchester and Nashua have the greatest amount of resources available, regionally, and so people seek us out. Pam: We have strong recovery programs and people come from states around, but we need to manage how to house them once they're healthy. It is important to divert them to their communities of origin, once they're well.

Meg: how much is being done to expand services into towns? Cities all serve surrounding areas. It's difficult for towns like Hudson to establish a transitional housing program, b/c you need other resources to make it work, such as a public health department, Boys & Girls Club, etc. Milford has SHARE, which offers pantry, psychological, recovery, etc., but in one organization, which is difficult. Pam: Family Promise works collaboratively with all surrounding resources and towns to be able to help people, b/c it's in the familys' best interests.

Tom: intrigued with Sarah Marchant wanting more affordable housing. We need to keep an eye on what the city is doing to promote affordable housing.

Jon: It is important to support these organizations as volunteers, advocates, and policy activists.

Meta: do people who go through programs stay healthy? How often are the programs true solutions. Pam: We all hope that they will work hard to overcome every obstacle that led to their position. Each family is a unique case. Family Promise has an 85-87% success rate of maintaining housing after a year. They return for case management even after their graduation. Graduates often become volunteers and mentors in our program. Mike A: United Way believes in the effectiveness of transitional housing programs that bring people from a position of insecurity to a position of self-sufficiency.

Jon: Presentation on interfaith housing group.

Affordable housing pledge:

- 2000 new affordable housing units in Nashua 2020-2030
- Establish affordable housing trust fund at \$5MM/yr
- Every new multi-unit development must include either affordable units or pay into the trust

Election for Board of Aldermen 2021...ask candidates to publicly endorse the pledge at forums, events, and one-on-ones.

Post-election:

- Support Master Plan/Imagine Nashua around affordable housing, pushing further to include affordable trust fund; changes in land use code; and working with Sarah Marchant (Community Development). Nashua inclusionary zoning study draft <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88032710682?pwd=VFFjT2tBQ1hFT3pDVlhmOTNFUWI4Zz09>
- Special Board of Aldermen - Inclusionary Ordinance Work Session Oct 7 at 6pm <https://www.nashuanh.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=8705>
- YIMBY groups in each ward re: planning/zoning
- American Rescue Plan funding ARPA info and comment link. <https://www.nashuanh.gov/1494/American-Recovery-Program-Act-ARPA>
- Get majority of BOA to support and be active monitors and advocates, project by project
- Continue to lobby city officials, esp Mayor Donchess and Tim Cummings (Economic Development)
- Links were emailed to the group for these meetings.

(If possible, add Jon's document)

Meta: it's membership time. Please submit dues and membership paperwork. No electronic payments at this time. Account balances: Main \$2,563.87, Crop Walk \$2,504.39, Choir \$831.75

Membership links:

Word Doc for printing

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z8XYgFric1nNPJ7H_RKK3HwHlsU3zPE/edit?usp=sharing&oid=102272182555645465196&rtpof=true&sd=true

Google Form (online submission)

<https://forms.gle/uM1TVwYQeTpcyg5gZ>

Becky: CROP Walk is coming. All outdoors with tents this year. Please promote from the pulpits. We are at about a quarter of our usual money raised, so we need greater participation this year.

Mike: United Way is looking for volunteers and participants for the Sleep Out. Moved from September to November to get out of "Back to School" season. Asking for youth groups.

Nonny: Thank you to everyone for help with the Welcoming Week and the Thank You Project Water Walk. Let's continue to collaborate.

Meta: CGS has started a concert series. Next concert on Nov 7 with a string ensemble.

SymphonyNH String Ensemble Concert

Sunday, November 7, 2021

4:00 PM 6:00 PM

Church of the Good Shepherd

Allison: Climate Justice Weekend link will be distributed.

Jon: Thanksgiving Service: what do we want to do? We're looking for a team to work on it. Let's participate together on the Facebook page.