

Leadership Minutes

August 8, 2023

As God's People, Graced By Differences, Nurtured By The Spirit,
And Gifted To Serve, We Invite And Welcome All To Grow In Faith.

Called to Order at 6:30 pm

In attendance:

Liz Melton, Jeanette Williams, Ron Lamb, Kathy Cisar, Pastor Ruth Ann, Luci Roberts

Guest speakers: Chris Finger (St. Spyridon), Doug Ashbaugh (HNS)

- I. Safe Lot presentation (introductions):
 - Chris Finger was seeking knowledge about and ways to help the local homeless population, when he got in contact with Doug.
 - Doug brought the idea of Safe Lot to Chris who began to get St. Spyridon involved.
 - Doug has worked with Colorado Safe Park Initiative who is operating 13 lots effectively.
 - Opportunities for church members extends to things like offering rides and auto repairs to clients.
 - The process of creating guidelines and contracts has been on-going for over a year; much research has been conducted.
 - St. Spyridon has lost its ability to host, so they are looking for a church to partner with.

II. Q & A with Doug and Chris

Question	Answer
Is there a chance that our Lutheran bishop may prevent us from hosting?	Pastor: Highly doubtful.
Have you talked with	Yes, and I've taken a trip to Arvada Covenant Church who

<p>Denver and Longmont to see if they feel it is successful?</p>	<p>has 8 spots. I was very surprised with their feedback. They have a committee of 4 people who rotate being in charge. They do not have security other than cameras. Longmont does. They invite people in twice per week. They get in contact with clients to see who is coming and keep the showers open during dinner.</p>
<p>Has there been any issues from the clients about the vetting process?</p>	<p>Yes, but then they are not permitted to be part of the program.</p>
<p>What happens if an applicant has a criminal record?</p>	<p>When they get ahold of us, they fill out a simple form with name and details. Then, we set up a formal appointment to go through an extensive application and background check. At this time, we'll be assessing whether or not the person is a good fit for the program.</p> <p>Vehicles must be licensed and insured. Clients must be licensed.</p> <p>Once a person is through the initial vetting, their case is presented to the congregation. A group that looks for help with car repair is a necessity for the program. Then, the client meets with the committee.</p> <p>All churches involved will need to agree that each client is a good fit within the demographic they want to serve (seniors, families, individuals, etc.)</p> <p>Initial planning for Loveland SafeLot is that each church hosts for one month at a time.</p>
<p>How many clients will we serve at once?</p>	<p>We'll be starting with 4 spots until more churches get involved and the program evolves.</p> <p>There will be a committee for the entire organization with representation from each church involved.</p>
<p>Do you have anyone vetted now?</p>	<p>No. We are currently helping people get licensed. Denver is giving us names of people from northern Colorado who have applied for their programs, but our program isn't</p>

	<p>quite ready for that.</p> <p>We are trying to find the homeless that are looking to avoid the drug culture.</p> <p>CSPI reported 150 people from Larimer County that have applied for their program.</p>
<p>Are other churches in northern Colorado interested?</p>	<p>We've met with some pastors in Fort Collins who are interested in this kind of service. On campus, there's an unbelievable number of students who live from their cars and they're trying to establish this for students and staff.</p>
<p>What about using city or county owned lots?</p>	<p>There's something about entitlement about how people interact with the space. The one publicly owned lot in Denver is the lot with the most issues.</p>
<p>What happens if vehicles are abandoned?</p>	<p>We are not accepting applicants in RVs because the cost of disposal if they are abandoned is astronomical.</p> <p>There are new state laws about abandoned vehicles, so signage stating that only authorized vehicles are permitted to stay in the lot are necessary.</p>
<p>Once vetted, is there a time limit for clients to stay in the program?</p>	<p>No. The average time in the program is about 6 months.</p> <p>Doug: We'll be case managing them and making contact with clients at least once a week. They need to give us an idea of their plan for getting out of homelessness (not impose one). If they don't show initiative to get out, they will not likely be accepted.</p> <p>We have lots of medical partnerships, HNS, and churches to help clients progress through hurdles.</p> <p>No time limit, but assessment of progress will be often and extensive. Warnings will be given if no progress is being made towards their plan.</p>
<p>Is there a plan for vetted clients whose only obstacle is the</p>	<p>Not right now, but we have money that we can divert to that purpose. It would be case by case.</p>

<p>money to purchase a license and insurance?</p>	<p>There are other churches in town that can't host, but want to be involved, so they may contribute financially.</p> <p>We have all the connections for getting people in contact with the right people to get them what they need.</p> <p>When churches host a dinner, the conversations can be part of the case management.</p>
<p>Has the municipal code been changed in Loveland?</p>	<p>August 15 is the first reading of the new code.</p> <p>We met with Allison Hade, a city employee in charge of homeless issues. Sandra Wright works with Homeless Alliance. They're making an amendment to a current nuisance ordinance prohibiting people from sleeping in cars--even on private property.</p> <p>We've been told to move ahead; it will be approved.</p> <p>The city can interfere when it comes to safety, zoning, and sanitation. The fire department will inspect and require adjustments to buildings, etc.</p>
<p>Does the bathroom/porta potty requirement have to be met the same way at all churches involved?</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>We can buy one for \$1800 + 365 with washing station (handicap accessible). Company will clean them monthly or bi-monthly ~\$100/month. The pay off is about 1 year, over renting.</p> <p>Most churches will put a fence of some kind around it with space where people can change. A combination lock will be on the fence.</p>
<p>Would the sink be operational in sub-zero temps?</p>	<p>The washing station may not be operational in the winter months, but with access to the church, it may be unnecessary.</p> <p>We may offer hotel vouchers when temps are below 10 degrees, or we could go back to shelter mode (host within the church) and Doug would supervise this.</p> <p>In Denver, they have shelter groups where they refer clients.</p>

How would you compare the clientele of 137 (Loveland's current homeless outreach) to this?	It is very different. The shelters have very few reasons to turn people away. There are many more rules for people to agree to follow for this program.
How many people will be associated with each vehicle?	I think there will be a number of vehicles with 2 people. I know there are people with children and pets, but they aren't necessarily coming through Family Promise. The majority are individuals, a few couples, and very few families.
Will the police patrol our lot?	We'll get in contact with the police department once we get it going, but we don't want unsolicited media before we get it going.
What happens if there is an issue in our lot in the middle of the night?	The inter-congregational team will get the first call, but should also contact Doug Ashbaugh. Doug will help train committee members for how to handle certain situations and when to escalate.
How will phone numbers be used without giving out personal numbers?	There are ways to block, etc.
Are incidents common?	In general, the clients govern the program themselves because it is a privilege and they do not want to lose access. They take pride in their involvement. Often, it is the clients who report unauthorized vehicles, etc.
Who makes up the security team?	The same team that is made up of members from all congregations involved. Another committee helps run the hospitality.
Would it be prudent to visit the Longmont Safe Lot?	That program monitors the lots with a paid staff. Their standard is much higher, but they have a 70% success rate for getting people housed.

	<p>“Hope for Longmont” is the organization in Longmont. It’s more of an intensive program.</p> <p>Denver’s model is more of what we are emulating.</p>
Do you recommend we get security cameras?	Yes, there are inexpensive ones and a good deterrent. Footage to go back to creates a safer environment for guests.
chris.finger@gmail.com with additional questions	hopeforlongmont.org/safelot

III. Leadership Team’s immediate response to the presentation:

- Amazed at how much work they’ve put into it.
- Relieved by high standards.
- One concern: money needed after the situation of our finances last year.
 - Cost is ~\$1000 per year, with about \$5000 one-time costs.
 - St. Spyridon is offering financial support, and possibly volunteer support, since they can’t host.
- Parking spots to use: left (south) of the sheds, next to the bushes

IV. August Treasurer’s Report:

1. Much further ahead than we planned.
2. Putting \$1000 each month in savings
3. Our income is very similar to last year (consistent giving)

The meeting was closed in devotion and prayer at 8:20 pm.

V. Votes via email:

- A. (June 27-29) Mad Wire contract
 - a. Motion to stay with Mad Wire and pay the \$500 Migration fee plus the onetime \$300 fee for one year web hosting made by Bryan French
 - b. Seconded by Kathy Cisar
 - c. Motion carries
- B. (July 18-19) Approval of May and June minutes
 - a. Motion to approve May and June minutes as presented made by Bryan French
 - b. Seconded by Mike Dodge

- c. Motion carries
- C. (July 18-19) Approval of July Treasurer's report
 - a. Motion to approve July Treasurer's as presented made by Bryan French
 - b. Seconded by Mike Dodge
 - c. Motion carries
- D. (August 17-21) Pastor Ruth Ann was contacted by the president of New Horizons Band. This is a band for seniors; they are national and international. They are looking for a rehearsal space for six mornings, due to their current rehearsal space being under construction. Their request works with our schedule. Pastor Ruth Ann met with four people who discussed their needs and how the sanctuary space could work for them. They made tentative decisions about chairs, outlets, times and spaces. They are willing to move items and put things back as they found them. They have been paying \$40 for their current space. It is a non-profit organization. Pastor also talked about getting a small group of musicians or their handbell choir to come and play for the church sometime. They were very excited about that possibility.
 - a. Motion to allow New Horizons Band the use of the sanctuary (Tues/Thurs last two weeks of September and first week of October) for a \$40 each use fee made by Bryan French
 - b. Seconded by Kathy Cisar
 - c. Motion carries
- E. Integral Steps, the music classes for little ones, have given us a new contract for the next school year, through May. We are only waiting on a certificate of insurance and deposit check. Ann Suda will be the teacher. She has taught here for years.
 - a. Motion to renew Integral Steps music classes building use agreement from September 2023 through May 2024 upon providing their certificate of insurance and deposit made by Bryan French
 - b. Seconded by Kathy Cisar
 - c. Motion carries