**Monthly Meeting Minutes – Civil Rights Forum**

**August 8, 2022 at 5 pm (via Zoom)**

**Progressive Action for the Common Good**

*Present:* Loxi Hopkins, Susan Leuthauser, Margie Mejia-Caraballo, Grant Curtis, Allison Ambrose, Matthew Nevin, Maddilyn Boche

Margie led the meeting and Allison took notes (We forgot to approve the notes from the June meeting)

Allison welcomed the new members: Matthew and Maddilyn

*Coalition Partners Update:*

* **MLK Interpretive Center:** No one to report.
* **NAACP:** No one to report**.**
* **LULAC:** Loxi and Margie reported that LULAC has had some issues at the national level. They are not sure how this has affected our local group. They did not have anything else to report.
* **QCAIR:** For the new members’ benefit, Susan explained what QCAIR is and what they do. She also reported that they are having a cultural festival and soccer tournament on September 10th.

Allison clarified that we work in coalition with the above groups and that we like to hear reports during out meetings so that we can be informed about what these groups are doing to potentially identify ways that we can support their efforts.

**Gender Equity Forum Update:** Maddi reported that she had attended the first meeting (in July) and that the main focus or the group right now is reproductive rights. She could report that the sub-group based in Illinois discussed how they want to reach out to Planned Parenthood to see if a clinic in the Illinois Quad Cities might be a possibility. She could not report on what the Iowa sub-group had discussed. The next meeting for this forum in next Tuesday (8/16)

**BLM Responses and Actions / Project Now:** Margie reminded the group that our forum plans to partner with Project now to have a book discussion of Kristin Henning’s book. This will occur in October at the Moline Library. The hope is to get people from PACG and other groups to attend. **We hope to get more details from Alta at our next meeting**

**Immigration/ QC Sanctuary Coalition:** Margie reported that a member of the coalition came to the latest One Human Family meeting and someone from One Human Family was appointed as a representative. Thus, the coalition appears to be making an attempt to grow and continue to meet. Both Margie and Loxi represent our forum on this coalition.

Loxi informed us that the federal government is really behind in processing immigrants, (ie: work permits). This poses a hardship on people as they often have to re-start the process due to these delays, which means re-applying and paying the application fees all over again. Loxi mentioned that there is a bi-partisan bill in Congress addressing these issues. We felt that calling our legislators regarding support of this bill is a potential action we can take. **Loxi will investigate what exactly is being addressed in this bill and its status.**

Susan shared information about what the current asylum seeker (CAS) who is being supported by the QC Sanctuary Coalition has been going through to get processed and that it is costing more than has been budgeted. Loxi mentioned that a Go Fund Me initiative might be needed to help with these costs. Someone mentioned that they thought the coalition might be holding a fundraiser in the fall. Someone also mentioned that the coalition is currently looking for a bike for the CAS. Allison suggested that they ask at St. Anthony’s as they collect bikes to give to the homeless. **Loxi will inquire about this with St. Anthony’s.** Margie mentioned that the CAS not only needs financial support, but emotional support as well. It was suggested that someone invite her to the PACG picnic.

**Juvenile Justice Coalition:** This group has been on a bit of a hiatus, but plans to start meeting again on the 3rd Fridays of the month at noon on Zoom. Jane Duax will be facilitating. One topic they are considering looking into is local gun control laws.

Loxi mentioned that no one really seems to know what is going on with the new jail. She is under the impression that COVID money cannot be used as originally thought. There is a possibility to still impact this, but we need more information. **If anyone finds out anything about this, please share with the broader group.**

**Miscellaneous:** Loxi mentioned that the Catholic Worker House in Iowa City has 2 houses where 19 asylum seekers are currently living. Is there a way we can help? **Allison will investigate.**

In terms of Get Out the Vote efforts, Allison mentioned that she thought NAACP was working in this.  **She will investigate if there is a way we can help.**

Loxi mentioned that QC Interfaith (Myra) is working on a community ID initiative. She may be seeking a letter of support from PACG.  **Allison will reach out to her to find out what kind of letter she may need.**

We discussed meeting times, dates and format moving forward. It was decided that we could continue to meet on Zoom for now. We may try a model, where once a quarter we meet live. This depends on if we can find a place to meet. **Allison will ask Maggie (PACG employee) to investigate a place where we could meet live.**

**Monday, September 12th at 5:00 via ZOOM is the next meeting.**

*Notes taken by Allison Ambrose*

***ACTION ITEMS from 8/8 Civil Rights Forum Meeting:***

**Alta:**

* get more information about the October book discussion

***Loxi:***

* get more information about potential federal legislation on immigration processing
* Inquire with St. Anthony’s about getting a bike for the QC Sanctuary Coalition’s current asylum seeker

**Allison:**

* Investigate where there is a way we can help the Catholic Worker House in Iowa City with their resident immigrants
* Talk to Glenda about what NAACP is doing regarding GOTV initiatives
* Find out from Myra at QC Interfaith is she would like some kind of letter of supportfrom PACG regarding the community ID initiative
* Ask Maggie to seek out a place where our forum can meet LIVE

**Everyone:** whoever may find out more about the Juvenile Detention Center and its status, please inform the group

**Someone (who?):** Invite the current asylum seeker to the PACG picnic