

**Boise/Ada County Homeless Coalition  
Minutes, February 14, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Pete Schroeder.

**Attendance:**

Cara Cain	Jim Blachman	Peg Richards
Carol Craighill	Jodi Peterson	Pete Schroeder
Cay Marquart	Laurie Francis	Sayrd Iverson
Charlotte Barrett	Lila Fetherolf	Stacy Lawrence
Denise Caruzzi	Linda Beebe	Susan Nee
Don Ruffing	Kelli Parker	Tiffany Bredy
Gary Hanes	Kelsey Cooper	Tony Horton
Howard Belodoff	Megan Dayton	Vivian Parrish
James Grunow	Neysa Jensen	Wayne Rancourt
Jessica Aston	Pam Roemer	

**Administrative:**

**Minutes Review:** January 10, 2024—Denise moved to accept; Carol seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Neysa reviewed activity and reported a balance of \$4,556.01 at the end of January. Denise moved to accept; Kelli seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

**Education and Advocacy**—Lila reported the current links to advocacy action items on our website.

**Website maintenance**—Carol reported Thrive has been extremely helpful in maintaining and updating our website. They have long provided hosting service for a very discounted (and grandfathered) non-profit rate. While their rates have increased this year, they will continue to provide a deeply discounted rate of \$60/month (\$720/year) for hosting, maintenance and one hour of development work a month. We recommend this continued partnership and approval of these rates.

Vivian motioned to approve; Lila seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Book Discussion Group**--Jim provided an update on the current read, adding that the group decided to meet an additional time to concentrate on how we might implement some of the solutions in the book (*When We Walk By*) to our own situation in Boise. He also asks for suggestions for the next book.

## **Presentations/Discussions:**

1. Laurie Francis is a new member, has worked much of her career with the unhoused community. She now splits her time between Missoula and Boise and has participated in our book discussions. She shared several ideas about engaging their housed and unhoused community by organizing cleanup/coffee meetups. She offered possible suggestions for projects we could do together.
2. Jodi (Interfaith Sanctuary) testified at the ACHD meeting last month about safety concerns on Americana Blvd. The ACHD developed a short-term solution for safety improvements in the area near Rhodes Skate Park, including reducing speed limits and adding crosswalks and safety lights. She also reported that construction on the new Interfaith Sanctuary on State Street will begin in April. They are still in need of several thousand dollars to get started.
3. Pete reported on the upcoming Housing and Economic Development conference to be April 22 and 23. The Coalition hosted a table at the last conference and Pete placed a call for membership interest and volunteers for this year's event.
4. Howard Belodoff provided an update on the current court case "Johnson vs. Grants Pass". The Supreme Court will review the decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, where it held that states are not allowed to make it a crime to sleep outside if no inside space is available. (Thanks to Howard and others who tirelessly worked on this for years.) These precedents are based on the prohibition in the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, against "cruel and unusual punishment." The local officials in Grants Pass and elsewhere seek the ability to arrest and jail unsheltered people. In Grants Pass, the specific charge was "camping," which police interpreted as sleeping with a blanket, pillow, or even a sheet of cardboard to lie on. This would obviously severely impact unhoused communities across the country.

## **Roundtable Discussion:**

1. Tony (Our Path Home) said that the PIT count was a huge success and included the help of 28 volunteers.
2. Don (Low Income Support Inc. and Corpus Christi) stated that Corpus Christi now has a full staff, including a new Director, Jessica Abbott) and that there are more and more people needing help. His Support Group is offering a second Pet Clinic on Tuesday, March 30. The support group has a vet who does physical exams, gives shots, etc. Don expects around 30 to 40 animals each time. He expects to continue to offer this event on a quarterly basis. They also hand out winter clothing. The organization is looking for an indoor garage space to do auto repairs.

3. Jessica (Boise First UCC and Furnishing Hope) helps families who are transitioning from being unhoused to housed, by providing household furnishings and move support. She happily announced they now have a storage space for storage of donated items.
4. Linda (Jesse Tree) stopped 1,198 from being evicted during the past year.
5. Cay (LEAP) reports that LEAP raised \$706,210 in the Avenues for Hope event. Their completed 5-year plan was honored by GDUSA Magazine in their 60th anniversary American Graphic Design Awards competition.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be March 13, 2024, at 1:30.

Notes taken by Cay Marquart

Secretary/Treasurer: Neysa Jensen