

CN2N

June 4, 2020

Participants:

Kris
Barb
Deborah
Kit
Reeve
Kevin
Susie
Louise
Emily
Penelope
Tim
Katherine
Gina

Updates:

Post Cards are out and in mailboxes. Gina will get a copy for posting on the resource page, etc. Posters are being made and a Spanish translation of the card.

Another good week for the pop up food shelf and soup supper. Louise is in communication with Merri about taking care of the gap week between the end of the school year and the start of summer lunch. Louise will manage once she hears back from Merri. SLA will donate \$200 towards the gap week. Reeve suggested contacting Val Hussey the OSW food manager.

Kris - current conditions in the country emphasize the need for our efforts to be aimed at the Spanish speakers in our community. The group discussed the need to make sure the work that we are doing is inclusive for all. Can Sterling be a resource for reaching out since they have students of color? Kevin will talk to Anne regarding resources. A couple of years ago there was a successful Thanksgiving gathering of Spanish speakers sponsored by Sterling, Don Houghton, and the churches. Perhaps a model?

4th of July Fireworks a possibility since the block party has been cancelled? Or other types of celebrations? To be discussed. Emily will ask Andrew is there's interest in fireworks from his end.

Trash is open this week, then closed but hazardous waste taken, then open for 2 weeks. Perhaps this means it will be open every week thereafter?

Q&A

Get edits to Gina ASAP. Susie will get copies for each of the mask bags to be packaged Friday evening.

Going Forward Discussion:

What worked well and what would we do differently?

What worked well:

- Feeding the community
- Got out in front of issues
- Were able to collaborate effectively with various interests and resources.
- Marshaling and coordinating the energy in the town. Rallying volunteer support.
- Folks outside the town recognize the work including on the regional and state levels
- Was able to help Albany
- Support for local businesses and institutions and their contributions to the efforts

What we would do differently:

- Reaching out to all even those who look at the world differently than we do.
- Discover resources beyond the town for more support including the Kingdom and the state contexts.
- Figure out what the social service needs are and how to fill the gaps. Use the mental health group model. Connect people to the existing resources and figure out what the gaps might be.
- Connect with people who don't want to wear masks and understand why in order to address the problem.

What are our priorities:

- Inclusivity
- Emergency response
- Long term resilience
- Increase connections
- Support the local economy
- Relationship with the town? Long term advisory committee. Group needs to discuss its role vis a vis fund raising. Community Trust?
- Create a funding mechanism that is clearly for our purposes. Within the town government or separate? Create a 501-3C with a board that has town representation? Would be a vehicle to accept donations and apply for grants.
- How to reach out to the community? Make sure the group represents diverse interests, but also bring perspectives thorough a planning process - feedback process.
- Host small group discussions with folks who might not come to a meeting to get their feedback. Roundtable format. Environment that is safe for people to express their opinions.

Next Steps:

Get the Q&A out, continue with our immediate tasks, and then develop a plan for outreach to the community to help define the group's future.

