East Lubbock Community Alliance

DRAFT Minutes of The Alliance Meeting

Monday January 5, 2015 10:00-11:30 am

Star Institute 514 North Zenith

I. Call to Order – Cathy Pope called the meeting to order.

II. Minutes –Pope asked if there were any corrections to the Minutes of the 12.1.14 meeting. There were no corrections.
MOTION: Nettie Edwards made a motion to accept the 12.1.14 Alliance Minutes. Motion was seconded by Annette Gary, PhD, and carried unanimously.

III. "Why the Alliance?" –Pope asked if there were any additions or corrections to the "Why the Alliance?" document previously emailed to everyone. There were none.
MOTION: Brandale Randolph made a motion to accept the "Why the Alliance?" document. Jonette Walker seconded and motion carried unanimously. The document will appear on our website.

IV. Engagement Report
   A. Introduction of New Members - Pope introduced the new members who were present including Barbara Morgan-Fleming, Leonard Chatham, LaCarl Richardson, Justin Bontke, Becky Fletcher and Sharon Henderson.
   B. Membership Report – Jonette Walker reported that The Alliance has 222 total members – 22 new members since the last meeting.
   C. Facebook Followers –Pope stated as of 12/31/14, the Alliance Facebook Page had 837 "Likes" exceeding the established goal of 835. She encouraged members to continue to encourage people to "Like" our page because of the increased exposure.
   D. New Website – Paige Holland reported that she has created a new website for the Alliance, making it much easier to use and everyone will be able to contribute. The Alliance acknowledged their appreciation.

V. Financial Report – Pope reported The Alliance has had $1,100 in donations since its formation. Expenses included the logo in the amount of $500 and the December event door prizes in the amount of $100, leaving a balance of $500 in the account. She stated that the remaining $500 has also been set aside for a story-teller event in April to pay for Josie Pickens, a professor from Houston to work with 4 women. All money is held in a separate account by StarCare.

VI. Past Events
   A. December Event: East Lubbock Promise Neighborhood and East Lubbock Community Alliance Family Arts Festival and Sing-Along (Dec 6) – Both Jared Strange and Stephanie Shine, PhD, reported the event was very successful and well attended. The Estacado choir sang and several of the after school programs performed by singing, dancing and acting. Strange announced that they plan to hold another performance in early May. Pope said the Alliance supports his suggestion of a performance each semester.
   B. Undoing Racism Workshop (Dec 4-5) – Margaret Randle reported there were approximately 45 participants in this two-day quality training. Randle stated that she

came away with a different meaning of racism – it is more of a system. She also would like to re-read history and feels everyone should do it for themselves and not rely on what others say. She also stated that we need to become community organizers.

C. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Eta Delta Omega Chapter Scholarship Fundraiser (Tom Braxton Dec 14) – Nettie Edwards reported this was a fun and financially successful event, partly due to the partnership with The Alliance and its advertising and attendance. Based on the revenue generated, they will be able to increase their scholarship program.

D. Coordination Meeting with My Brother's Keepers (Dec 16) – Pope asked LaCarl Richardson to report on behalf of My Brother's Keeper. Mr. Richardson stated this organization is comprised of 15 or so individuals who were raised in East Lubbock and who have a vested interest in people that no one else seems to be able to reach. This group is able to go into our neighborhoods because of the trust they have been able to develop through their efforts in helping many people. The Brother's Keeper as an organization have joined the Alliance. Pope welcomed them and noted how please we are that they are going to be a part of the Alliance and working with us.

VII. Upcoming Alliance Events:

A. MLK Banquet (Jan 16) – Pope encouraged The Alliance to turnout for this event to show our support and to network. Let Pope know who plans to go, and she will collect everyone's money and buy the tickets so we can go in mass. LaCarl Richardson recommended busing kids from East Lubbock to the event on Sunday afternoon. StarCare will help with transportation. Charlotte McCarty and Tony Spray will assist in coordinating these events. Information will be posted on FB.

B. January Event: MLK Day of Service (Jan 19) – Rachel Flores stated that the Volunteer Center coordinates the MLK National Day of Service each year by allowing their partners to list projects on their website. People who want to volunteer can sign up on line. People can donate the number of hours that they want to participate. The motto for the day is "Not a Day Off but a Day On".

The Alliance can participate in two ways by designing projects and posting them on the Volunteer Center website and by forming teams of themselves their employees, family and friends and working on one or more of the projects.

- Roots – Eric Strong described the work at Roots and the Gateway. The project plan is working on a community garden and planting trees. He also reported that the building at 2301 Cedar (old Acme Brick Building) is now a Community Revitalization Center, wherein plans can be submitted for revitalization of certain areas in exchange for low rental costs and clerical support. Texas Workforce Solutions and Chatman Neighborhood Association are the first tenants.

  He also stated Tomorrows Leaders is looking for mentors, and he asked that anyone interested in mentoring and/or going on their annual bus ride with the kids to Washington DC call 806-632-9679.

  Strong also mentioned grant collaboration asked if anyone was interested in that as well.

- Dunbar Ervin Area Home Renovations – Toni Spray with LUNA reported they plan to kick-off their home improvement project in the Dunbar-Ervin area with Habitat for Humanity and the City of Lubbock CDBG. Minor home repairs will be underway.
- Chatman Hill Orchard – Brandale Randolph reported that StarCare is prepared to receive a donation of 5 acres at the south end of Chatman Hill for use by the East Lubbock Community Alliance. Randolph is working on securing the other 5 acres to be used for a community garden where students will plant and market; a walking track; and an orchard/vineyard. A well has been discovered and he is working to determine cost of making it operational. LaCarl Richardson reported that this was the heart of the beginning of East Lubbock and was known as Queen City. People were positive about this project and noted it would be a wonderful memorial.
- Star Institute (plant flowerbed) – Pope stated StarCare Institute's front flower bed needs clean-up and planting.
- 4th Street (trash cleanup from IH27 to MLK) - Pope stated that there is a lot of debris around the fences, etc. on the North side. Beth Lawson volunteered to see if anyone has "adopted" this area and if so, she will follow-up to solicit their help in the clean-up. [It has been determined that the area has been adopted by the American Chemical Society Student Group]
- Projects recommended by Texas Tech Early Head Start and the Lubbock Community Health Center are pending depending on their becoming a partner with the Volunteer Center. [Cost is $100 annually]

C. Community Forums sponsored by North and East Lubbock Community Development Corporation, My Brother's Keeper and East Lubbock Community Alliance (the third Thursday of each month from 6- 8 pm starting Jan 20) – The Community Forum is one of the three planned monthly meetings of the Alliance. The purpose of the forum is to network, share information and to gather ideas and feedback from the community. The first Community Forum will be January 20th, from 6:00p to 8:00p at Star Institute at 517 N. Zenith. Pope appointed a Forum Planning Committee including Reggie Dial, LaCarl Richardson, Leonard Chatham, Margaret Randal and Shari Niehaus. [They will meet Thursday, January 8, at 1:30p at StarCare at 904 Ave. O to finalize plans for the event.]

D. Undoing Racism Workshop (Feb) - There will be a second Undoing Racism training February 26 and 27. A signup sheet was available for those who would like to be considered to attend. This training is made possible through the ELPN Grant through Amanda Banks. The Alliance has limited if any seating for this particular training. [The sig-up sheet has been forwarded to Amanda Banks in case any seats are available for members of the Alliance.]

E. Future Monthly Events

Sponsor Dunbar Honor Roll Celebration – Pope reminded the group that this event occurs every six weeks. Approximately $200 is needed each time for pizza, drinks and $5 gift cards. Judge Drue Farmer volunteered to provide for the next event. Guadalupe

Parkway can pay for the pizzas. [Amerigroup will be able to furnish the drinks for the events.]

Pope will verify with Amanda Banks the date of the next event.

Dues have been suggested as a mechanism for funding these types of events. Pope said we are looking for some start-up funds from local businesses.

F. Religious Leader Luncheon – Discussion was deferred since Bill Stubblefield and Bill Carter were not present.

G. Upcoming Alliance Partner Events:
   - 100 Black Men Scholarship Gala (Jan 31)
   - Community in Schools Identifying and Supporting Children in Crisis Series: Part 2 (Feb 3)
   - Community in Schools Crimson Gala (Feb 26)
   - NAME Multicultural Conference (April 23-25) – Pope reported that this event will have excellent speakers including Josie Pickens and Shelby Knox. As soon as a flyer is released it will be posted on FB.
   - Storytelling Project with Josie Pickens (April 25-26) Pope reported that 4 women with East Lubbock connections will be chosen to work with Pickens to tell and record their stories. Margaret Randle will be one of the participants.

VIII. Projects of the Alliance and Alliance Partners

A. Family Academy Report – Stephanie Shine, PhD, introduced her two new staff Becky Fletcher, Family Academy Project Director, and Sharon Henderson, Family Academy, Parent Educator. The Family Academy will work with parents and children with a goal of school readiness. It will also connect parents with services in the East Lubbock community. Shine invited The Alliance members to attend their meetings and connect with the parents. Dates will be announced as they are determined.

B. Roots – Because of the shortage of time, Eric Strong will report on Roots and the Gateway Project at the next meeting

C. Chatman Hill Orchard was discussed earlier in the meeting.

D. Buffalo Soldier Mentoring Trip (Dec 14) – Pope reported that Brandale Randolph and Totsey Bass took four kids to Clovis, New Mexico, to meet with Mr. Potter, a Buffalo Soldier. Plans are for Mr. Potter to travel to Lubbock.

E. Promise Zone Designation Announcement- The announcement has not been made at the national level.

F. Utilization of Parkway School – Parkway deferred to a future meeting.

G. Distribution of Pet Smart Toys – Pope reported that Amy Estrada, Manager of Pet Smart in Midland, delivered 1,000 new toys to her to be distributed among The Alliance members. She discussed how this could be a future model for pooling resources and planned distribution by the Alliance.

H. Read to Your Baby Billboard Campaign and Media Material – Shine reported four billboards are up and plans are underway to put signs in busses and in east Lubbock businesses.

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Carolyn Simpson will work with Scholastic Books on volunteering to earn vouchers for books that the Alliance could donate for distribution. She will work with the Volunteer Center to coordinate the effort.

I. Membership Items (t-shirts, name badges, pins) – Discussion was deferred for lack of time.

IX. Announcements

A. Chris Moore announced the following upcoming events:

- Second Saturday in February – Black Faculty Dinner
- January 12 – home ownership classes at the Bridge
- SBA will be conducting 4-day workshop on starting up your own business

B. Grace Norman invited members to attend the Summer Meal Strategy sessions at the Hope Community of Shalom, 10:00a to Noon on the 2nd Thursday of every other month.

X. Next Meeting is Feb 2 from 10-11:30 at Star Institute 517 North Zenith