

Special Parish Board Meeting FRS – October 2, 2023

Call to Order: Jim Supple called the meeting to order at 7:12pm.

Present: Rev. Rebecca Bryan, Rob Authier, **Tina Benik, Jim Supple, Kathy Desilets, Renée Wolf Foster, Annie Maurer, Laurie Evans-Daly, Tom Himmel, Vern Ellis, Minnie Flanagan, Bob Higgins, Liss Larsen, Lori Clark.** *Note: names in **bold** are voting members.*

Absent: Caitlin Creps.

Welcome: Rev. Rebecca offered a blessing for power, faith, love, and care to the world.

Purpose of the Meeting: Jim and Rev. Rebecca explained that this meeting was called to ask the board to officially support action to enable the Mirzayee family to take advantage of an opportunity to move into community housing. See attached chart for a summary of the details.

David Hall has made us aware that a housing unit is available in his development Hillside Village. This is an excellent location in Newburyport which would keep the family in the school district and with easy access to volunteers who have been providing support and other friends in the community. Mr. Hall is willing to significantly reduce the rent from the market rate and offer the family a two-year lease. FRS leadership has worked with the landlord to develop a plan to make this affordable for the family via ongoing community support.

A standard assessment of what a family can afford for housing based on income done in conjunction with John Feehan at the YWCA shows they can afford \$1,500. Mr. Hall is willing to give the family a lease at this amount if FRS will cover the remainder of the rent under a separate linked agreement. We would guarantee \$1,800 per month which would cover part of the rent and provide funds to pay for utilities.

Other expenditures that need to be made are lead paint remediation and plumbing work to assure two full baths with shower. Mr. Hall will split the cost of remediation of the lead with FRS (@\$12,500 each). This can be covered by the final support payment for the family from IINE (the resettlement agency) of \$20,000. FRS will cover the plumbing needs using the remainder of the IINE payment along with possible donations of goods and services and other funds which have been raised for the family.

Currently we are holding \$35,000 in a separate dedicated account which represents contributions from the community, including congregants, to support the family. While this would be enough to fund the rent, we would like to continue to engage the community while maintaining a fund to help the family with other basic needs. We propose to approach 18 donors (from among those who have supported the family) asking them to contribute \$100/month for two years to support rent and utilities. Five people have already stepped forward and leadership is confident that we can engage the others.

In a brief question and answer session we explored how we will meet the family's needs during the transition and clarified funding proposals.

Action: Support the Mirzayee family's move to community-based housing.

Motion: Tina Benik moved that we support the transition of the Mirzayee family to a long-term rental at 14 Cottage Grove Court, Newburyport. We will do with funds on hand in a dedicated account as well as continuing to seek community support to pay a portion of rent and utilities and to meet other needs of the family during the transition. Laurie Evans-Daly seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Closing: Rev. Rebecca invited us to join in a call she heard recently at the ordination of a colleague. May the people say (all speak) AMEN.

There was a lot of joy and excitement and recognition, gratitude, and affirmation for all those both in the church community and in the community who worked to enable this outcome.

Action: Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Lori Clark moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition. The meeting was adjourned, and the chalice extinguished at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Desilets, Clerk

**14 Cottage Grove Court
Hillside Village
Newburyport**

24-month lease at \$2,800 month
Years 3 & 4 at \$2,950 (optional)
Can go beyond

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| Mirzayee Family | FRS as holder of donated funds |
| Rent \$1,500 (\$36,000 for 24 months) | Rent \$1,300 /mth (\$31,200 fro 24 mths) |
| | Currently holding \$35K in segregated funds from donations specified for this purpose. These came largely from donors beyond the FRS |
| Move out Parish Hall 11/1 (or thereabouts) | Will approach 18 sponsors for \$100/mth to cover cost of our portion of rent and utilities (totaling \$1,800 mth is 18 donors). Currently have 5 who have come forward without our asking. |
| Need a plumber for additional bathroom | |
| | Split cost of lead abatement with David Hall up to \$12,500 each (funds to come from \$20K final donation from IINE Resettlement Agency) |

NEXT STEPS

- *Lease Signed
- *Letter to go out to church
- *Raise a toast and blessing immediately following Church 10/8