Title: Affordable Housing and Environmentalism

Date: Tuesday, 8/25/20

Time: 7 pm – 9 pm

Facilitator: Bert Newton (Introduction)

**Speakers:**

Tim Kohut

Kristin Shrader-Frechette

**Announcements (Bert Newton)**

Upcoming Justice Forum on Tuesday September 22nd, Advocacy 101 – Alexa Faith Rooted Organizing and Anthony Manousos 7 pm

Biden and Trump on Affordable Housing – <http://laquaker.blogspot.com/2020/08/where-do-trump-and-biden-stand-on.html>

**Spiritual Reflection (Bert Newton)**

What does the Bible Have to Say about the Environment?

* Environmental Crisis in the Biblical Times
  + Deforestation
  + Increased hardship on the common poor
* Prophets paint word images of environmental renewal
* Revelation 22 – Image of a city on Earth that is a city of justice, healing and environmental renewal and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations

**Subcommittee Reports**

**North Fair Oaks Empowerment Project (Jill Shook)**

* Job description for a Community Organizer
* The community has accomplished a lot and wants to continue organizing

**ADU Subcommittee (Anne Marie Molina)**

Pilot Program: Per Housing Dept. our group will contribute by doing outreach efforts to community. We are still awaiting print materials but tentatively scheduled for Sept 1 & 2. For the Design of Plans. Per the direction from meeting with housing department we will follow up with Planning Department.

We will follow up with Margaret McAustin to find out when will the funding for pre-approved designs be released and who will be leading this. Would the city consider net-zero? Boris reviewed the limit of tax implications after creating additional living space, we will create summary to add to ADU portal. We do need to follow up with Morgan regarding access to OneDrive.

* Ab 69 to ease financing for ADU construction has been passed

**Safe Parking Subcommittee (Tom Petersmeyer)**

* On July 28, at the regular MHCH monthly meeting, the SGV Safe Parking Committee presented its PowerPoint presentation on Safe Parking to be used with prospective safe parking site hosts.  On August 16, several of us met with Rev. Sharon Richter from Trinity Church, Pasadena to present our PowerPoint and discuss details of a safe parking program.  She came back to us on Aug. 24 that her council voted to work with us to set up a safe parking pilot program.  They may be able to provide showers certain days of the week and might serve a “simple” breakfast.

**Community Land trust (Connie Milsap)**

* CLT Committee has been interviewing interested people.  We are scheduling our first meeting in September.

**Affordable and Supported Housing Advocates ASHA (Anthony Manousos)**

* Our Homeless Housing Committee decided to change our name to Affordable/Supportive Housing Advocates (ASHA) to reflect more accurately what we do. ASHA means “life” in Swahili, “happy” in Hebrew” and “wish”, “hope”, “desire” in Sanskrit. This month ASHA’s focus has on two new developments being proposed in our city. We’re partnering with a Fuller student team concerned about CBD’s proposed development of 105 units on the corner of Los Robles and Carson. They want to use a state density bonus and include only 8 very low-income units. This site is part of the Fuller Master Plan that requires 100% affordable student housing.  We also plan to meet a developer seeking to build 227 market rate units on Los Robles next to the 99 Cent Store. They want to pay an in-lieu fee instead of including affordable units. We want to convince both developers to build as many affordable on-site units as possible.

**Church Liaison Network Program (Bert Newton)**

* We now have over 20 official liaisons in over 20 faith congregations in Pasadena! We are continuing to build out our liaison congregation network deepening our roots in the community and equipping congregations to come together to transform our city.
* A liaison mobilizes the members of their congregation to advocate for the needs of the community regarding affordable housing. That includes bringing people to these monthly forums, participating in our monthly trainings, engaging people in the congregation one-on-one, getting people to write letters and emails and, when there is no pandemic, to come down to city council meetings to advocate and testify, and getting a small annual donation from their congregation to help finance the work that we do.
* If you want your faith congregation to join our network, please contact me. I’ll put my contact info in the chat. We are more powerful when we come together and speak as one.

**Executive Report (Jill Shook)**

* Ephesians 2:20 - God can accomplish more than we can see or think
* We are meeting with two more churches on North Fair Oaks and are confident that affordable housing will help revitalize the community
* We already have one church with 43 units and RFP ready to be sent to developer so if you’re interested contact Jill if you’re aware of any affordable housing developers
* We just finished a poll to determine interest in hosting pallet homes. On the poll we asked if they would support and overlay Zone to enable and 98% were supportive of that and the Hyattt center played a huge role in getting the poll done so thanks to them
* In 1948 people were living in chicken coop and box cars, but the policy did not play out the way it was intended, and it was full of racism and we’ve never fully defined what a decent home means.
* Romans 8 – there’s nothing that can separate us from the love of God, but creation is groaning but we all need to bring about that change and we all can feel that groaning

**Video (Nalleli who was affected by environmental contamination)**

Link to Video Online: <https://www.climaterealityproject.org/blog/toxic-neighbors-front-lines-environmental-justice-movement-video>

* Was a student at Anne Marie’s daughter’s school but she couldn’t speak because she’s in her second round of chemotherapy
* Lived near a chemical powerplant near Vernon, all the children were sick
* Nalleli started several groups to stop environmental injustice and the chemical plant was closed
* Was a speaker at the women’s March in Los Angeles, and went to Sacramento several times to plead on behalf of environmentally unjust areas

Tim Kohut (Presentation)

(download full Powerpoint presentation makinghousinghappen.org > MHCH Local Advocacy > Past Meetings

**Tim Kohut,**AIA, is Director of Sustainable Design with National Community Renaissance, a regional Developer/Builder of affordable housing.  Tim works with design teams, construction teams and subcontractors implementing strategies aimed at high performance and energy efficiency and to ensure that all projects are built to meet the strictest accessibility requirements.  He is a Certified Accessibility Specialist (CASp), a Certified Energy Analyst (CEA), Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Rater, and Building Performance Institute (BPI)Energy Analyst.  Tim has spent more than 20 years designing, building, and consulting on affordable housing projects throughout Southern California.