

Arizona Council on  
Faith-Based and Community Initiatives  
Chair Gary Kinnaman  
Minutes for September 24, 2009

The Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is dedicated to engaging and mobilizing all faith communities to improve the quality of life for our most vulnerable and impoverished people through a statewide, action-oriented collaboration of faith-based, community and governmental organizations.

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- Welcome, Invocation and Introductions
  - List of Attendees is attached.
  - Chair Gary Kinnaman welcomed everyone at 10:07 a.m. Reverend Jan Flaaten led the Council in prayer.
  - Chair Gary has not yet re-connected with the Governor's office.
  - Joyce said "now is the time to be bold" and "now is the time to motivate and mobilized community advocates" and "now is the time to voice concerns to the Governor's office and all elected officials" regarding the impoverished and vulnerable in our state.
  - A discussion began around the Council's efforts regarding prayer. One idea was to offer personal prayer support to the Governor. Caution was urged on this – let's be sure to not be seen as supporting one side of politics vs. another side of politics.
  - A prayer idea with more energy is one that sees the Council as a convening body for a prayer breakfast.
    - John spoke of another group that is looking into coordinating a statewide prayer breakfast to include political and faith leadership. He will speak with this group in the coming week and report back to the Council. Perhaps we could play a role in this effort.
    - Ben believes coming together for prayer would be seen as a "common ground" regardless of one's own political views.
    - Chair Gary suggested the Council's assistance with a statewide prayer breakfast would include Member Organization and Council "endorsement." This would show broad community support for the event and would give it a non-partisan feel.
- Review previous meeting minutes
  - Minutes from the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. Scott suggested the Member organization names be included along with Member names.
- Update on former Council Taskforces
  - Municipal Initiatives
    - There was no update from taskforce members. However, much is happening statewide around the idea of connecting governmental bodies with Faith-Based Organizations.
    - Scott spoke of the Rural Development Council which recently conducted a "hometown competitiveness" effort in Douglas which included components on leadership development, youth, entrepreneurship and philanthropy.
    - Scott also spoke of a "financial literacy" effort in Coconino County. He would like to see the Council support these efforts, even if only through a statement of support.

- Chair Gary spoke briefly about Jon McHatton's "For Our City" initiatives in Tempe, Thatcher and Chandler. He also highlighted Jon's presentation at the League of Cities event in Tucson earlier this month where approximately 20 additional municipalities are looking to implement a "For Our City" model.
- Ben spoke of Councilmember Dina Higgins faith initiative in Mesa.
- Ben suggested we begin to inventory these efforts and determine how we might be able to support them.
- Chair Gary believes our role for sustaining this Former Council Taskforce is one of convening these community efforts and being a catalyst for spreading them. All agreed.
- Military/Veteran's Initiatives
  - Monsignor O'Keeffe spoke briefly about the past efforts in this area and he believes the Governor's office appointment of a liaison to this effort is needed.
  - The Monsignor says the three top priorities for the Yuma community, with regards to Military Families are:
    - Transportation to health and human services
    - Proximity of a National Cemetery
    - Availability of counseling services
  - Chuck spoke of the "Arizona Coalition for Military Families" and how that group sees its roots in the efforts of this Former Council Taskforce.
  - Rev. Jan spoke of a Navigator program at the Historic Presbyterian Church for "walking alongside" veterans and their families as they try to navigate the military support systems.
  - Chair Gary believes our role for helping to sustain this Former Council Taskforce is one of convening/connecting/catalyzing Military/Veteran activities around the state (there is a pattern developing here).
- International Initiatives
  - While no formal report was given, it is obvious that much is happening in Arizona around refugee support and human trafficking.
  - Chair Gary believes our role for helping to sustain this Former Council Taskforce is one of convening/connecting/catalyzing these activities around the state (there is a pattern developing here).
- Poverty and Emergency Preparedness
  - While no formal report was give, there is much happening around the state.
  - Judith spoke of "Feeling the Economic Crunch" which came out of this Former Council Taskforce. This effort is sustained as part of the Valley of the Sun United Way's website. Visit [www.vsuw.org](http://www.vsuw.org)
  - Judith, Joyce and Dan spoke of the recent efforts to ensure AZ211 sustains. The data for the online information is all available through the website of Community Information and Referral ([www.cir.org](http://www.cir.org)) and a statewide conversation is being to ensure local communities are part of the long-term 211 Arizona strategy. The United Ways in Arizona have taken a leadership role in this. Judith and Dan both serve on the 211 Arizona Workgroup. A future Council meeting will include a presentation on this topic.
  - Chair Gary believes our role for helping to sustain this Former Council Taskforce is one of convening/connecting/catalyzing these activities around the state (there is a pattern developing here).
- We will revisit the Former Council Taskforces at our next meeting.

- New Business
  - Chair Gary would like an update at the next meeting from Judith and Linda Leatherman regarding the White House Office on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.
  - Chair Gary would like an update at the next meeting regarding the HHS-SCF grant application.
  - The Monsignor and Mitzila Hogans (via Chuck) suggested the Council talk about H1N1 to determine if we have a role with this issue.
  - Rev. Jan reminded attendees to keep the Council's purpose of helping impoverished and vulnerable people in plain sight. Let's not lose this focus! While many faith communities are good at charity (short term), they are not necessarily good at justice (long term). What can we do to make a real difference? How can the Council keep this message front and center? We need to be clear on this and a prayer breakfast with crisp, consistent messaging would be very powerful.
  - Chuck believes the Council should become very good at convening around issues, and story telling around issues.
  - Chair Gary suggested we have a website to house information regarding the Council and the community inventories we will likely end up with.
  - Chair Gary asked Chuck to revise the Council summary statement to include:
    - Four Taskforces from Former Council
    - WH OFBNP's Seven Initiatives
    - Possible Council Action list
  - Chair Gary believes we will need to answer the following questions, if we are to attract the Governor's Office and the White House as partners:
    - What are we doing?
    - Is this sustainable?
    - How are we different?
- Closing Remarks and Adjourn
  - Chair Gary thanked everyone for a very productive meeting.
  - John led the group in a closing prayer.
  - Next meeting is Thursday, October 22nd; 10 a.m. to Noon at Food for the Hungry
  - Adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Chuck Fitzgerald, DES

Present:

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Absent:

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