

Castro Cares Meeting
January 24, 2015 – Minutes

Present: Andrea Aiello, Castro CBD; Daniel Bergerac, Castro Merchants; Gregg Carey, CCOP; Bea Chun, Jamal Cool; St. Francis; Rob Cox, EVNA; Alan Lau; Jim Laufenberg, Coldwell Banker; Kathleen Purcell, Wednesday Suppers at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church; Mark Scheurer, DTNA; Kristin Wojkowski, Castro CBD. Guests Present: Jess Donig, Miracle Messages

Absent: Brian Hill, CCOP

I. Introductions Committee members and guests introduced themselves. We were joined by Jess Donig of Miracle Messages.

II. Update on Case Manager: Andrea talked about meeting with the AIDS Foundation and a possible partnership. They seemed enthusiastic but she hasn't heard back since and will follow up. We have \$28,000 in grant money which must be used by June or it will be lost.

III. Miracle Message: Kathleen introduced Jess Donig. Miracle Messages reconnects street bound people with loved ones and creates social support. They've currently facilitated 106 reunions. They are staffed by volunteers 10am - 5pm and have a new phone number 800-MISS-YOU. Jess will send us information to use in our Castro Cares newsletter and when available, will send us business cards to hand out.

IV. Trashcan Discussion: Andrea talked about "Big Belly" trashcans at the request of Brian Hill. This topic will go to the CBD via Services Committee. Andrea will report back.

V. CBD Fundraiser: Andrea reported the fundraiser raised \$18,615. After deductions for the cost of the event, \$4,851 was given to Pink Triangle Park and the remainder goes to Castro Cares. We still have about \$60,000 in donations for Castro Cares which will not expire and \$28,000 from the grant which will expire in June. We need to think about how we want to spend this money.

VI. Next Steps:

- . a. Additional Safety - Patrol Special currently works 32 hours a week patrolling for Castro Cares. Hours are Friday - Saturday 7am-7pm & Sunday 9am - 5pm. Their focus is East of Sanchez since the CBD & Merchants use Patrol Special Police for West of Sanchez. Patrol Special doesn't have the bandwidth to add additional hours presently. Block by Block (the CBD's current cleaning company) also has a uniformed security service which can provide wellness checks. They usually work in pairs and have guard cards. They cost about \$35 per hour.

- . b. Respite Center - Daniel would like to see the money saved for a respite / drop-in type center. Andrea asked if anyone had feedback or comments regarding this issue. Kathleen suggested it be called a "resource center" as opposed to respite or drop-in. Gregggy talked about successful centers in North Beach, Haight (now closed) and Walnut Creek (maybe called Fresh Start). City support will be needed to make this possible. Andrea will invite the new Mission Station Captain to the February meeting, Rafael Mandelman to the March meeting & Jeff Sheehy to the April meeting.

- . Gregggy shared a handout with a description and picture of a person who currently has a stay away order. This person travels into the Castro from Walnut Creek and has become increasingly violent.

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VII. Next St Meeting Adjourned:

- . 12:32pm

Minutes taken and prepared by Kristin Wojkowski

Approved 04/25/18