



KAIROS ADVISORY COUNCIL NORTHEAST CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX

FEBRUARY MINUTES (February 17th, 2024)

Attending:

Tom Egan, George Fulwider, Brad Wilson, Rob Roberts, Scott Hale, Jody Mims, Jim Catt, Jeff Fannon, Jared Malone, Richard Beets, Jim Hawley

Excused:

Harry Ennis, Scott Stodola, Elgin Goncze

Call to Order

Rob opened the meeting at 9:00 AM

Opening Prayer

Jim Catt opened our meeting with a prayer. Brad added a prayer for Christ to open the hearts of the men currently attending their Kairos weekend in San Quentin Prison, California,

Approval of January 2024 Minutes

Tom previously distributed draft minutes of the January Advisory Council meeting for review. Rob asked for a motion to approve. Jim H. moved that the January 2024 draft minutes be approved, Brad 2nd. Motion Passed without exception.

Financial Report – Harry / George

The 2024 Kairos NECX budget was prepared and distributed to KPMI. The AC discussed and accepted the 2024 budget for Kairos at NECX. Scott H made a motion to approve and adopt our 2024 budget and Tom 2nd. Motion passed without exception.

George reported that at the end of 2023 there was approximately \$6,000 in cash with KPMI. During January, an additional \$1,200 in revenue was received. Therefore, our current assets at this time are \$7,200 including a \$2,500 donation from Amber for a new speaker and a separate \$1,100 donation. These funds are directed to offset the costs of our weekends as well as the purchase of Bose sound equipment, which was approved later in the meeting by the Council.

Spiritual Director Devotion – Jim C.

Jim prepared a devotion from the gospel of Luke citing Jesus' parable about the lost sheep, where the shepherd leaves the 99 sheep to save the 1. He talked that sinners feel abandoned and unable to be healed, but to Jesus, there is no such thing as a sinner who cannot be saved. The lost sheep is the sinner and Jesus will always try to rescue that sinner, no matter what. Also, there is celebration when that one sinner is found. Like Christ, we need to also reach out to sinners and non Christians alike.

Review of Action Items – Tom / Rob

Tom and Rob reviewed and updated the action items highlighted at the end of these minutes.

Ongoing Ministry (Journey) Report – Jeff

Jeff reported that again we had a good turnout from the men inside for our weekly Prayer and Share gathering last Tuesday.

We talked about the one day retreat that was rescheduled for later in 2024. What was discussed was that the retreat became more difficult to organize because of how much food was needed and the logistics of providing it. When we decided to go to 2 sessions, we were providing lunch for up to 125 men. This was a lot to plan for us and for Resy and his group. When we plan this next time, we may want to look at just providing snacks and drinks and not a meal. Our Christian message is what needs to attract the men, not the food.

The format of the retreat and how we present it, either one group for full day or half day sessions for 2 separate groups, needs to be analyzed to ensure what whatever we do works best to accomplish the goal of the retreat, which is to rebuild our relationship with our graduates who do not attend our Tuesday sessions and get them back into our ministry.

There were a number of reasons for us to reschedule the retreat but now, with additional time, we have an opportunity to focus on its structure and guidelines. Jim H. published guidelines what everyone thought was good. (attached) It highlights that if the retreat is planned in an August timeframe, we need to find a leader now. Then in May, 3 months prior to the retreat, we need to have our Inside coordinator, Joseph send invitations and applications for the retreat to the men inside. The men would be instructed to get clearance to our weekly Tuesday sessions and attend the first Tuesday in June and/or the first Tuesday in July session, where they would submit their retreat application in person to either Jim Catt or Jim Hawley. This way we would confirm attendance and it would not just allow this to be an open invite to everyone.

Communications Coordinator – Scott Stodola

We need to submit our articles to Scott for our newsletter.

Kairos Outside / Emmaus Liaison – Scott H.

Scott H. and a few other Kairos volunteers are working a Road to Emmaus weekend and will be making contact with a number of Christians who would make great candidates for Kairos. This is a good recruiting opportunity. They are also involved in Emmaus gatherings in Johnson City and Kingsport and will recruit also at these meetings. Brad asked to be made aware of these sessions.

Scott had the names of 4 individuals who have expressed interest in working the Kairos 43 weekend. He provided those names to Jared for Scott S. to follow up.

NECX Liaison Report – Jim H.

Jim talked with Resy regarding our letter of understanding with NECX and the situation we had on Kairos 42, involving the head of security, Officer Stanton. Resy told Jim that although Stanton was correct in taking the action he did, the way he handled the situation was not good and it should have been handled a lot better. Resy also said that this is not a good time to talk to Stanton about this but assured Jim that our ministry is in good standing with prison administration.

Jim also attended a good bye party for Charley Russell, a long term volunteer chaplain at the prison who is leaving prison ministry to head his own church. During the event, Jim talked with the Warden and other members of prison administration and confirmed that Kairos is definitely in good standing with the prison at this time.

Jim did mention that the prizes from the prison administration for volunteer are not ready at this time.

Jeff asked Jim if he knew why getting feedback from Resy in scheduling the one day retreat in February was such a problem. Jim said one of the issues was that Joseph did not know what he needed to do to get back to us with the names of candidates for the retreat. The good news is that with Jim's new updated procedures for planning the retreat, that will fix this problem.

Kairos 43 – Scott S.

Jared reported that the leadership team on Kairos 43 has secured an AirBnB facility for the weekend. It is important that the leadership team house together at the same facility for the weekend and they will share the expense of this facility to do that. Jared has also secured the same facility for his weekend in the fall.

This is different from the Eisenhower house which has space for about 20 people. This facility has been reserved for Scott's and Jared's weekend. Jared did not know if hotel rooms in Mountain City have been reserved for Scott's weekend and will follow up.

Music for Scott's weekend is covered. Kevin is doing music.

Jared is getting a 14 foot trailer for the weekend. On Wednesday, they will move our equipment into NECX. This should work just fine as it is now all stored in Mountain City. This eliminates the Ryder truck rental, which on Kairos 42 was \$1,500.

Jim H. challenged us by asking if all of the Agape we are currently preparing each weekend may just be too much. We do prayer charts, prayer vigils, prayer chains, Agape from other prisons, coloring weekend flyers, thousands of cookies, 7 full meals, which is in addition to organizing and running the weekend itself. When he looked at the weekend picture from Kairos 42 there is definitely a lot of items displayed around the gym and asked if all of this is burning out our volunteers and leaders.

Question was asked on how many cookies will need to ask team members to provide, especially if Scott S. has a smaller team. We don't do a good job of monitoring the number of cookies we use and how many are left over at Bethany Church after the weekend. There may be a lot more than we think. We also asked whether cookies should be for just those individuals associated with Kairos or, do we need to continue to provide cookies for the entire prison population including COs and staff. We have asked for 75 to 100 dozen from each volunteer on the past few weekends.

George noted that there were plenty of cookies for the weekend but none available for our reunion. Jim correctly indicated that no matter what the number of cookies we ask each volunteer to provide, it is the churches who do the baking that bakes whatever they want, which may be more or less.

George indicated that Scott S. made a \$2,000 request for funding the weekend training session. This seems high as the cost should be a lot less as we bring our own food. We will follow up with Scott S. on this. Jared is scheduling a lunch with Scott and his leadership team to get updated on all aspects of the weekend, as it is only three weeks until the meet and greet meeting on Saturday, March 9th. We all need to be ready to support the weekend in any way we can. Jared will use the weekend checklist that Michael Austin put together for Kairos 43 and will share it with the Advisory Council when it is updated. Rob Cole is the coordinator on Scott's weekend.

Old Business

Scott H. talked with his friend Chris, who has the Bose speaker at his church. Chris said we will need to use our existing board with the speakers when we use them in the gym at NECX. The speaker should be compatible with the board we have. If we choose to use these speakers on our Tuesday sessions, which we probably will not need to do, we won't need a board as the speakers have their own input jacks and a lot easier setup as they will just be for music.

Scott H. asked Chris if we can borrow his speakers and take them to the NECX gym and try them out. Brad, who has graciously researched purchasing these speakers and found a substantial discount for us from his company, indicated they come with a 90 day return or replacement policy so suggested we just buy the speakers now and eliminate this extra step. This made a lot of sense to everyone especially since we are almost certain we need them. We did discuss the need for adding a sub woofer, but determined that it would only enhance music and not voice, which is not our problem, so we decided to hold off on this until a later time.

A motion was made by Richard Beets for Brad to purchase the Bose speaker with the 90 day warrantee. Brad would check whether the discount he is getting from his company is greater than what we could get by buying directly from BOSE, with our tax exempt status. Whatever is less, Brad would purchase. This motion was 2nd by both Jared and Scott Hale. Motion passed without exception.

Brad will advise the Council on this purchase before he finalizes it.

Since our mixing board has a problem, Scott H. was asked to get it fixed as soon as possible.

New Business

We have received a request to do a presentation on Kairos at a church in Gate City Va. Scott H. and Jim H. will schedule a time with the church. We have a few presentation formats which they can use.

Fundraising to offset the costs of our weekends was discussed. With the financial burden of our weekend solely on our volunteers, we are concerned that team fees, by themselves, will not be able to offset the approximately \$7,000 cost of our weekends. We are continuing to put more of a financial burden on our volunteers which is definitely going to limit those who will be able to volunteer in the future.

Jim H. said that only 2 churches donate to Kairos on a regular basis and that one of our largest donation sources should be through our churches. Each of us needs to ask our churches for donations to our ministry on a regular basis.

Jared is beginning to organize a fundraiser for his weekend. He feels this is important for his weekend in the fall. Although this will make money, it will involve a lot of time and effort. We need to look at donations from our churches and other outside sources first. Jim H. did this at his church and was surprised how easy and effective it was.

We will continue to look at offsetting weekend costs through donations to reduce the amount we need to charge our volunteers.

Prayer Requests

- Prayer of thanksgiving that George' baby grandson is now home from hospital and doing better.
- Brad's father is home but is needing end of life care
- Scott H. dad is bedridden with physical limitations requiring care, but mentally is doing well. There are positives
- We are aware that again, there is a manpower shortage in prison staffing. This will impact the men and could impact our ministry.
- For the men in unit 7, who although out of lockdown, are still not doing well
- For Scott S. and the Kairos 43 weekend.
- For Our Country

Closing Prayer

Jim H. closed the meeting in prayer highlighting the prayer requests.

Meeting Ended

Rob closed the meeting at 10:59AM.

Respectively submitted,

Tom

KAIROS ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS FROM NOVEMBER MEETING
(December 16, 2023)

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS
Discuss what we need to do to get Kairos for the Annex	Rob	<p>Schedule after K41. Brad will talk with Robert who will document recommendations on how to provide a weekend for the Annex.</p> <p>After July meeting we are scheduling a meeting with Chaplin Resy to discuss options for a weekend in the Annex. Not this time around Jeff read notes about the annex. Showing the importance of a weekend in the annex supporting us doing a weekend there Jim biggest bang for buck is in general. Resy has full list for the fall. Spring in the annex but now it is only 26 Jim best folks in facility at annex. Brad do not get list of main complex if we do annex. Now we have 100 plus ready to go in the main complex. May ruin our reputation in the main complex if we do annex.</p>
Do a Kairos NECX budget review	Tom	Brad will work on this and make a presentation at our next AC meeting
How should we use the \$2,500 donation from Amber for Sound Equipment	Scott Hale	Purchase of a BOSE Sound system was approved at the meeting.