



KAIROS ADVISORY COUNCIL NORTHEAST CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX

MARCH MINUTES (March 16th, 2024)

Attending:

Tom Egan, George Fulwider, Brad Wilson, Rob Roberts, Jody Mims, Jim Catt, Jeff Fannon, Jim Hawley, Harry Ennis, Elgin Gonce, Scott Stodola

Excused:

Richard Beets, Jared Malone, Scott Hale

Call to Order

Rob opened the meeting at 9:00 AM

Opening Prayer

Jim H. graced us with an opening prayer.

Approval of February 2024 Minutes

Tom previously distributed draft minutes of the February Advisory Council meeting for review. George asked for a correction as they indicated that we are moving items into NECX for our May weekend on Wednesday, it should be that kitchen items are being moved to Bethany Church on Wednesday. Items for the weekend will be moved into NECX on Thursday. Tom updated the February minutes to reflect this change.

Rob asked for a motion to approve. Harry moved that the February 2024 draft minutes be approved as amended, Jeff 2nd. Motion Passed without exception.

Financial Report – Harry / George

Harry is working with Brad on becoming familiar with the financial procedures that KPMI used for Advisory Councils. He provided the Council with the financial activity for January and February showing that for these two months we had cash advances of \$8,244, donations of \$1,967 and reimbursements of \$106. This is resulting in a (\$6,383) balance for this period. George concurred as his balances were similar.

George and Harry indicated that expenses paid for 2024 were for the same items. We currently owe the State KPMI \$9,500 from two advances. Our January 1st, 2024 opening balance was \$5,848.

We need to reconcile our \$2,000 advance for the training weekend by May 2nd and the \$7,500 advance by June 3. This is doable as team fees for Kairos 43 will be collected by May 2nd.

Brad noted that when we decide to request a donation from each team member at a certain amount, which for Kairos #43 is \$150 and \$30 for the training weekend, that we also consider the other costs the volunteers have in working a weekend, especially those staying at a local hotel in Mountain City. Rob said we decided that the team donation would be \$150 in January and we need to keep it at that level.

Brad calculated that a full team of 42 volunteers will result in revenues of \$6,300 which should offset weekend expenses. With only 30 volunteers working the weekend, our revenue is only \$4,500. There is a financial advantage for a larger number of team volunteers.

It was mentioned that we need to look at increasing our fundraising efforts as currently only two of our Churches contribute to Kairos on a regular basis. This will help us defray the amount of the donations we request from our team members.

Spiritual Director Devotion – Jim C.

Jim C. did a devotion on the Gospel of John, 3:8. It focused on wind and how we see its effect in the movement of trees and other objects but don't see the wind itself. Especially now with the winds of March now upon us. So it is with the Spirit who never is still and is in constant motion within us. As we see wind in the trees so we should also see the fruits that the Holy Spirit produces with us when He moves within our soul.

Review of Action Items – Tom / Rob

Tom and Rob reviewed the action items highlighted at the end of these minutes. Updates were made and items deleted.

We are still considering doing a Kairos weekend for the Annex but with the prison having staffing issues, this will need to be delayed for some time.

Brad will distribute budget worksheets to help us develop a budget for our finances.

Finally, we removed the action item on a new P.O. Box and ledgers to control our own cash balances as they have been completed.

Ongoing Ministry (Journey) Report – Jeff

Jeff reported that again we have between 30 and 40 men attending our Tuesday meetings at NECX. The individual devotionals at each table are also working well but on most tables the same people give the devotionals each week. We need to encourage the others at our tables to also do devotions. Also, would be helpful if volunteers would go to a different table periodically and meet with different men inside.

Communications Coordinator – Scott Stodola

Scott S. left meeting early and did not give an update on communications.

Kairos Outside / Emmaus Liaison – Scott H.

Scott was not at the meeting and did not provide an update.

NECX Liaison Report – Jim H.

Jim H. has been working with Resy to see if we can get attract gang leaders and/or the rougher inmates at the prison to our weekend as this is one of the objectives of our Kairos ministry. Chaplin Resy is in favor of doing that and is planning to help us identify these individuals. Jim was planning to meet this next week with Resy and a CO who knows these men, as a first step. Unfortunately, Resy contracted Covid and will be out for a while, so this will be delayed, but it is still planned we will be able to invite these men to Kairos 43.

We have learned that NECX has been in the news lately for the wrong reasons. The prison currently has over 50 vacancies. NECX has been ranked as the 3rd worst prison in the State in the area of staff turnover. The prison is in an area with a high poverty rate which results in staff having to drive a long distance to get to the prison. There is also very high overtime for staff with one CO telling us he is working 7 days a week. This definitely leads to burn out and staff turnover. To help retain new employees, the prison started a bonus program after the employee is on staff for one year, however, from what we hear, staff is working that one year for the bonus and then quitting.

It was asked if we could go back to our two hour visits on Tuesday. When we asked prison administration about this possibility, they told us it was not feasible and we would need to continue with our 1 hour meetings with the men.

Kairos 43 – Scott S.

Scott S. thanked his leadership team of Brad, Jared and Rob Cole who filled him for him at the meet and greet weekend on March 9th. Scott was in Indiana due to his girlfriend's mother having a sudden stroke and brain bleed. They did a great job and there was a lot of positive comments on well the meeting went and how well the team is coming together. The facility was great and the lunch the church provided was fabulous. The assistant pastor, Josh did a very nice devotion and the leadership team provided direction for an informative and enjoyable meeting that was very productive. Scott will write a thank you note to his church for the wonderful job they did hosting us. There are 8 team members who are new to Kairos. There may be 10 as Scott wasn't sure if this number included 2 musicians, who are new.

Thanks to Brad, Scott has a new laptop, which was donated. He will be getting the person who made this anonymous donation a card thanking them for their generosity.

Scott needs help registering the HP printer to his new computer. Why this is important is that without this registration and the ability to use Office Depot's discount ink program, toner for the

weekend will be a lot more expensive. Scott estimates it may cost in excess of \$600 for toner for the weekend without this discount program in place. There will be a huge savings if we can take advantage of the Office Depot program. He is working on this and will keep us informed.

Scott has been working on the Kairos 43 training weekend, April 5th to 7th. So far the plan is there will not be a formal dinner on Friday night. Saturday morning there will be a continental breakfast that will be provided by a youth group at Scott's church. There is also a chicken lunch and BBQ pork dinner planned on Saturday. No meals for Sunday have been planned at this time.

Scott has been able to secure our sales tax exemption at most of the stores we need and has begun to buy the for the training weekend, The good news, he has secured lower prices on bacon than the previous year. He also presented George with a receipt for chicken he purchased. Team members have been told that they will be asked to donate \$30 for the April training weekend. This is in addition to the \$150 suggested donation for their team fee. The charge for the camp in Blountville is \$10 a day, which includes an overnight and \$6 per day for use of the camp without the overnight. We are the first group using this facility for a weekend and the first time we are doing something like this for team formation.

Scott has secured a 14 foot trailer for the weekend. This is all we need to move our equipment to Bethany Church and NECX from our storage in Mountain City. We will not need to rent a truck for the weekend.

Scott has 3 runners assigned for the weekend.

Scott has also assigned the talks for the weekend. He will work with Tom on meditations and devotions.

Old Business

- **Bose Sound System**
 - Brad received the new Bose speaker system on Monday and the plan is to test it either on the training weekend or the final team meeting.
- **Fundraising to offset weekend expenses**
 - Tom indicated that Jared reported at last month's Council meeting that he was planning a golf tournament to fundraise for his weekend. Tom also thought that we should do fundraising with our Kairos Community by asking them to contribute to offset weekend expenses. Jim H. reminded us that before we do new fundraising efforts, we need to start by doing a better job fundraising in our churches. Currently only 2 churches donate to Kairos on a regular basis, Harvest and Grace Fellowship. Tom mentioned that he followed through on Jim's suggestion from last meeting and has secured a donation from his church.

New Business

Rob announced that the Council and our Kairos community, wishes to express their gratitude to Brad for his technical support and the work he did in securing financial assistance for our new laptop. Getting the laptop donated was a special gift. We will be sending a card to the donor for this gracious contribution to our ministry.

Tom will include fundraising as a topic on the April agenda

Jim asked us all to identify leaders from our community to not only lead our weekends but also for positions on our Council. We need to recruit these individuals now, as the time is getting short to find a leader to lead Kairos 45 and be the observing leader on Kairos 44 this fall.

To facilitate this process, we will ask Scott Hale to lead a nominations committee for new leaders and Elgin to work with him on this new committee.

Elgin correctly indicated that it is not a good plan to go into a leadership position after only serving on one Kairos team. The individual needs to be more familiar with weekend procedures and processes in a number of different area and be knowledgeable on what is needed to lead a weekend.

Prayer Requests

- Pray that Kairos 43 bring Christ into NECX and He changes many lives.
- For the soul of Brad's father who went to his reward. Please pray for Brad and the Wilson family. There will be a service on March 26 at the VA in Johnson City
- Harry is having a heart scan on Monday as a precautionary measure. Harry also needs his insurance provider to approve a new c-pap machine to replace his current one which is 20 years old.
- Elgin's Mother's condition has forced her to take a law new chemo drug and his father-in-law needs new hearing aids. He also has cardio problems.
- George has some internal issues that require him having an endoscopy; however, because of his pacemaker, he is having trouble finding a doctor who will do this procedure on him.
- Rob asked us all to pray for the current condition of the USA.
- Continued prayers for Scott H's. father.
- Mike Austin has been having some medical issues and needs our prayers.
- NECX and Prison Administration with their vacancies and turnover issues.
- Pray for Chaplin Resy who has Covid. May he heal quickly.
- Prayers for Jeff's sister who has a serious COPD issue.
- Pray for Warden Eller and his administration staff during this difficult time.
- Pray for the local churches in Mountain City area.

Closing Prayer

Tom closed the meeting with prayer highlighting each of our prayer requests.

Meeting Ended

Rob closed the meeting early at 10:28AM.

Respectively submitted,

Tom

DRAFT

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> <p>It is going to be more difficult to schedule this weekend with the staff shortages at NECX</p>
Do a Kairos NECX budget review	Tom	<p>Brad will work on this and make a presentation at our next AC meeting</p> <p>Brad will send out budget worksheets to begin the process</p>
How should we use the \$2,500 donation from Amber for Sound Equipment	Scott Hale	<p>Purchase of a BOSE Sound system was approved at the meeting. Bose system purchased and being tested. If acceptable, this item will be closed.</p>