Meeting notes 7-8-2022 at Louie’s

In attendance: Trista Brown, Sandy Costa, Cynthia Powell; by phone: Ranisah Brown

\*AI = Action Item

Call to begin: TB Seconded: CP

~ Next event, with One Joliet Coalition, SpeakUp, and Healing Heartstrings on Aug. 13th

- Called “Back to School Community Picnic” and the theme is “Do You Know Your Neighbor?”

- DYKYN is a program from EAT (Equity and Transformation) and they will be helping us fund it.

- Every neighborhood is different, so this is like a block party. We want people to know how each neighborhood is different, so we will focus on each one. This time we are going to the southside.

- We are holding it at Varnado Park at McDonough and Water St. It runs from noon to 5 pm, but we will be there to set up at 8:30 – 9 am.

- We need volunteers, ‘boots on the ground’ beginning next week to help us promote, organize the event, pass out flyers, hang up signs.

- We will be giving out bookbags and school supplies on a first come-first serve basis.

- We are inviting organizations that are active in the area. We have the health department to focus on mental health needs, we have ‘Break the Silence: Awake the Truth,’ Will County Sheriff’s department, Center for Community Concerns, and hopefully others so that the community knows what resources are available to them. Hopefully, Black Panthers, etc. will come and model black excellence.

- We are working with OJC so that people know that we all work together. We know that just a few of us maintain these groups, so we want to recruit more activists to help and grow.

AI – promote Cynthia’s event in Aurora on July 15th.

- If we know of other groups that have resources, please invite them to attend. We can forward them a general information letter.

- We are pleased to work with CP and ‘HH’ as she brings a lot of experience to event planning, etc.

- Looking for groups to donate hotdogs, bottled water, juice, ice, buns…. The food will be free. Tyrone will be cooking again.

- Reached out to Alicia Morales for event insurance ($189.00).

- Challenge is to get donations. We don’t want the cost to come out of individual pockets.

 Insurance 188.00

 Bouncy house 250.00 w/ generator

 Generator (one from SC)

 Sound system 350.00

 Porta potty (2) 200.00

 Supplies and bookbags donation

 Flyers and banner

Probably $1500.00 overall

- Michael Hester from EAT will be donating funds.

- We are looking for helpers to take on specific tasks.

- Volunteers will have t-shirts “southside!” and can give community service hours.

- Vendors will pay $50; nonprofits $25.

- Program will include presentations by groups doing work in the community—each gets 3 minutes.