

OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES FINAL

Tuesday, November 20, 2018
Children's Chapel

Attending: Susan Bartlett, Rand Stone (by phone), Sharon Sisskind; Ted Hess-Mahan at 8 p.m., Laurel Farnsworth (by phone) at 8 p.m., Chris Krebs (BOT), Linda Ross (asst clerk)

Called to order 7:05 p.m.

Invocation/Chalice Lighting/Reading - Sharon

Covenant

As we, the members of this Council and staff, gather to serve this congregation in leadership, we commit to ourselves and to each other: to be present and prepared for the work of this meeting; to listen well and contribute respectfully; to balance both our short and long-term visions with fiscal responsibility; to support the decisions of the Council; to uphold the democratic process; and to lead with goodwill and faith in the work we can accomplish together.

Prior approvals by email

Judy Friedman sent the following request by email.

The Newton-Brookline Asylum Resettlement Committee (NBARC) has rec'd a request for clothes to be donated to a refugee child who is part of our group. If all goes well, I'm picking up a large box tomorrow and will put it by the door near the announcements, either tomorrow night or Sunday morning. I plan to put a sign on it: "Winter Clothes for Asylum Seeker - Child size 3T". I'll leave it there for maybe 2 Sundays.

The above request was approved unanimously by email on October 28, 2018.

Approvals:

- Minutes-October (approved via email)
- Social action fundraising activities - see Excel sheet handed out. OC does not have to approve RE, music, clothing collections, or special collections. Do have to approve Alternative Gift Fair (December 9), UUM Christmas collection, Healthy Baby Healthy Child, Walk for Hunger, NAMI, Mother's Day Walk for Peace. Ted moved to approve the latter activities; Sharon seconded, 5 in favor, motion passed.

Staff Update – Sharon is on the committee to choose the new membership coordinator. One person has been interviewed that everyone liked; will be checking on references.

Report on BOT Meeting - Chris Krebs

- Had good conversation about the relationship between the Board and the minister.
- Discussed Listening Circles; beginning to actively plan how to elicit more response from the congregation before the budgeting process begins.
- Stewardship process – on agenda for next Board meeting.

Financial

- Review October expenditures – Susan and Rand had questions about some of the items; will hold review until another meeting because Laurel did not have budget materials with her to review.

- Board - will be holding a meeting regarding last year's budget process on Dec 2, following the service

Final update on Youth Protection Policy

Susan –has clarified with our insurance agent – the document says that a person's references must come from organizations that show that the person has worked with youth – agent said work references are fine if the person has not worked with youth organizations outside of FUUSN. Susan added a paragraph to the document to clarify. Ted moved to approve as amended, Sharon seconded, 5 in favor, motion passed.

Update: Events checklist

Sharon – had previously wondered if there was a checklist for outside parties renting space. She has since reviewed FUUSN's rental agreement and found that almost all of the information was there.

Gender-neutral bathrooms - Communicating/education decision

Lengthy discussion of upcoming changes to bathrooms near Parish Hall. (Change is that the current men's room will become a gender-neutral bathroom; the urinal has been removed and a changing table installed. The women's room will also become gender neutral, with no physical changes).

Laurel – discussion about gender-neutral bathrooms has been going on for 2 years. Issue came up because we have a member who is in a wheelchair and has a baby, and there is no place for her to change the baby. She cannot access the baby room, and the bathroom in the classroom corridor (where this is a changing table) is not handicapped accessible. She noted that the Massachusetts Office for Children's Standards for pre-school or day-care sets regulations for ADA bathrooms. She doesn't know if a gender-neutral bathroom can substitute if the women's room configuration were to be changed.

Chris – there is useful information on UUA website about instituting gender-neutral bathrooms.

The overall conclusion is to leave the changes intact, but do more and better communication with the congregation about why these occurred.

Susan asked if WCIT would write something up explaining the process by which the changes were determined; Linda and Chis agreed.

Update: Committee issues/reports

- FUUSN parking situation
 - The Newton City Council has approved the special permit for renovation of the Santander Bank Building.
 - A letter has been prepared for construction of new parking lot; not sure of status.
 - The new parking lot will most likely be constructed in spring.

Communications-process for updating web

- Liaisons to committees should be in touch with committee re updates
- Greg Sullivan willing to do updates
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Next month's newsletter article due Dec 11

Discuss special collection at Dec. 14 service to help with unanticipated building repairs (sewer) - Laurel

Thank yous - Bob Persons and Kieran Reynolds for insulating the ventilation tower Parish Hall. Connie Stubbs, Denise Bousquet, Kieran Reynolds for Yard Sale, Ann Watson Born for taking choir to outside places to sing.

Meeting adjourned 8:55 p.m.