

OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES FINAL

Tuesday, September 17, 2019
Children's Chapel

Attending: Laurel Farnsworth, Judy Curby, Sharon Sisskind, Karen Burns (BOT), Jud Leonard, Eric Haas, Amanda Graff, Linda Ross (asst clerk),

Called to order 7:08 p.m.

Invocation/Chalice Lighting/Reading - Jud

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.

Welcome to Eric Haas, new member, replacing Rand Stone

Staff Update - Amanda

- Off to a good start with RE starting last Sunday
- Had a great Coming of Age first meeting last Sunday night
- Doing pretty well without Erin; she is working with Anne Watson-Born to plan services.
- Suggestion was made to consider youth (senior high school) to help out on Sundays.
- Update on membership coordinator search – interviewed one candidate, but found during second interview that that person was not a good fit. The search is continuing.
- Amanda requested more funds to increase Beth Walton's hours from 40 to 50. The funds are coming from the DRE salary line from the unfilled position.
 - Suggestion from Judy to increase the number of hours further in case they are needed, rather than having to bring it up again.
 - Sharon moved that up to 75 hours for Beth be approved at her current pay rate; Jud seconded; unanimous approval.
- Sharon updated the membership coordinator search. A search committee has been established but needs to be approved by the Board before acting, which hasn't yet been done.

From August BOT – Laurel

- Rowan van Ness requested sponsorship as minister in training, approved
- Board of Investments –shifting investments slight to less than 80% equities in the event of market downturn.
- Procedural vote on committees – Karen Bottar and Brian Gill-- Finance;Laurel Farnsworth--Buildings and Grounds;Stephanie Kendall--RE Council.
- Karen Burns – liaison to PPC.

Approvals:

- There had been an email vote to approve a table for the family choir in the Parish Hall September 22 (approved).
- Gift card for Erin – Laurel suggested that the Council send Erin a Whole Foods gift card. Jud moved this; Eric seconded; unanimous approval.
- A table in the Parish Hall for Climate Strike on September 8 was approved solely by Laurel, given that she only received the request the night before. Ops Council members were notified of this by email.
- Dan Stoll sent a request for a table in the Parish Hall for proportional voting. Laurel was concerned because it is an overtly political issue; there was discussion of this concern. Consensus was that it was not appropriate; there are other options for him to present his issue, such as going through Social Action Committee
- Ron Margolin came to Amanda's office and asked if he could teach swing classes in the Headstart Room - 4 free classes, Wednesday evenings Oct. 23-Nov. 13. Laurel indicated that this conflicts with the children's theater workshop, but that concludes by the end of November. Consensus was that it was OK, but must be vetted first by Fran and Laurel to avoid conflicts.

Financial – review monthly report

- Amount for painting is over budget due to underlying wall damage that had to be repaired
- Payment of prior year's pledges is over budget (seems to occur every year)
- One extra month of RE director salary is included in expenses. It was just missed in review.
- \$535 was moved from contingency budget for memorial (Allan Hartman)
- Question about computer expenses being 80% of budget – Judy will check on what is being posted here.
- Judy – some old checks were outstanding; advice was to re-issue; checks posted to accounting support – have not hit yet. **Amount will be eventually be posted to prior years budgets.**

Schedule

- Ops Council retreat – tentatively scheduled for Oct. 15 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- November and March committee chairs meeting
 - November 2 Breakfast 9-11
 - March 7 Lunch 12-2

Review committee liaisons with Eric – worship committee, music committee, social action. Discussed role of Ops Council in handling FUUSN business.

Update: Committee issues/reports

- Building update
 - Cell tower lease – FUUSN received a letter about 6 months ago requesting extension of the lease. A freedom of information act was filed, which revealed that T-mobile is paying the City of Newton \$77,000 for a tower – they are paying us \$38,000. T-mobile was notified and FUUSN is requesting an increase, and they are considering. They also have an escalation clause with the City of 4%; ours is 3%.

- Ron Margolin has resigned as head of the hospitality committee, so no more community breakfasts. His duties as head also included managing beadles, which will need to be re-assigned.

- Epi-pens – decision was made last meeting not to stock them.
- Eric promoted the acquisition of an AED. He was asked to write up a proposal as to why it is needed and where it should be placed..
- 911 signs need renewal – missing or tattered – Laurel will ask Fran to handle.
- Black Lives Matter sign is getting shabby and needs repair. There was discussion of how to make the structure that holds the sign more stable – Judy will check into it.
- Judy – sees a number of people who use the listserv but who have not contributed to FUUSN for many years – wondered if we could put out an appeal to their good nature to contribute.

Thank yous – Sandy Island - Denise Bousquet, Barbara Schmitt. Stephanie Kendall for help on hiring committee over summer. Summer and annual meeting barbeque – Pat Rohan. Ron Margolin for annual meeting barbeque

Meeting adjourned 9:18 p.m.