

OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES DRAFT

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Via Zoom online

Attending via Zoom: Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, Jud Leonard, Karen Bottar, Eric Haas, Wayne Everett, Erin Splaine, Chris Krebs (BOT), Brian Hicks (BOT), Anne Watson Born, Amanda (after 7:35) Linda Ross (asst clerk);

Called to order 7:04 p.m.

Invocation/Chalice Lighting/Reading - Eric

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.

Approvals:

- By email, prior to meeting – Susan notified the members of a request from Tom Bean to contract with Tower Genius for advice on negotiating a new agreement for the cell phone tower. Six voted yes, motion passed.
- June minutes - Jud moved to approve the minutes; Karen seconded the motion, 5 voted approval, motion passed.
- Posting of minutes
 - Continue to post on web site, open to all.
 - Annual meeting posted behind password.
 - Karen moved the above; Laurel seconded; unanimous approval, motion passed.

Staff Update – Erin

Everyone is in summer mode

BOT June meeting – Jud

- Discussion of chair and vice-chair roles
- Demi elected chair
- Sabbatical plans discussed
 - Amanda is expected to take one in 2023 – 2024
 - Anne is due but doesn't want to take it yet, probably spring of 2023
 - Erin proposed that she take sabbatical Jan-Feb 2022 and in the fall of the following year.
- Review of board role, by Barbara Bates and Pat Rohan, will be done at the July meeting
- Amanda
 - Reviewed the upcoming Coming of Age plans
 - RE next year will be focused on art and connection
 - She is surveying families about the need for Zoom RE
- Discussion of sending out announcements of picnics on Facebook and in the newsletter

Financial - Karen

- All in order, no questions
- BOT analysis of pledge data: constraints on release
 - Need to have appropriate restraints in place for security and privacy
 - Brian Hicks – important to know historical support and what happens in the next 2 years given the outside factors affecting finances. He has done this type of analysis before. Best to do data dump and then anonymize it by pledge unit.
 - Question raised as to specifics about the data requested and who would have access.
 - § Brian would be the one who received data.
 - § Discussion of the request and various issues
 - § Brian is being asked to prepare written proposal with specifics

Reopening FUUSN building

- Hybrid services
 - Put fixed cameras (2) in sanctuary
 - One at the front of the balcony
 - One above the altar showing the sanctuary
 - Concern was expressed over permission from congregants, especially if showing children
 - One operator's table near the piano
 - Sanctuary beadle can handle – should have a pool of 2 or 3 people for coverage
 - Anne would prefer to continue to broadcast over Zoom privately, no archiving of materials
 - Laurel moved to approve Jud's proposal and budget of up to \$4,000; Karen seconded, all approved, motion passes.
- Considerations: when & how to reopen
 - Erin is in favor of finding a way to be back in person but is concerned about variants; referenced recent Provincetown cases causing shutdowns
 - Should people wear masks?
 - May be better to err on the side of caution.
 - Discussion of issue.
 - General consensus is to require masks.
 - Anne – polled 35 members of the choir (29 responded) about issues for the upcoming year. (Note: numbers rounded)
 - Overwhelming majority (89%) said they planned to be in the choir.
 - 100% are fully vaccinated.
 - All indicated that they were comfortable singing outside without masks and social distancing
 - 56% said that they would sing inside regardless of people's vaccination status; 45% said that they would sing inside if they knew that everyone had been vaccinated
 - Things to consider for indoor rehearsals
 - 22% would like everyone to be masked
 - 33% would like everyone to be socially distanced
 - 44% said “none of the above” – meaning no restrictions
 - Choir singing on Sunday morning

- 56% were happy to return to the chancel and lead worship as we usually do
 - 44% said that they would sing in the Sanctuary with masks
 - Social distancing – probably not necessary if people are vaccinated and masked.
 - Movement of people through the building
 - Can people walk down office hallway toward Parish Hall for coffee hour?
 - Erin – trying to move the Sept 12 service to an outdoor space.
 - Amanda will be working on the movement of parents dropping off children and then going to the service, and the reverse after the service. This movement will have priority over movement of other people.
 - Long discussion of the issue
 - Consensus:
 - Services will be in the sanctuary, masked, no social distancing
 - Attendees will leave after the service and meet outdoors for discussions if desired.
 - The remainder of the movement of people to be determined.
 - No decision yet on whether children will be in the sanctuary at the beginning of the service before leaving to go to class
- Rental questions: can we resume rentals in September—e.g., AA group, tai chi
 - Long discussion about various issues with outside groups
 - Who has priority over requesting/reserving space?
 - Will masks be required? No decision
 - September wedding rental has been requested for the Parish Hall and kitchen – consensus is that no one has problems with this
 - Lois Shapiro concert – Nov. 9, Sunday afternoon, in sanctuary – OK by Erin if the same guidelines are followed as for services.
- Ferry Beach – Bill Dusett requested a response as to whether we will be having our October weekend there; he already has the contract.
 - This is a popular weekend – if we don't take it, we might lose it to other congregations, possibly forever
 - Susan will check with Bill about the amount of deposit, in the event that a decision to cancel is made later.
 - Discussion of the risk of having people together at Ferry Beach facilities
- Julia Wolfe is interested in doing a second outdoor event in September
 - Status: air purification upgrades
 - Laurel – almost done but not completed. She thinks 90% completed
 - Air flow in the sanctuary
 - Heat comes up one side and down (exhausts) in the middle.
 - Air is being treated with UV light before entering the sanctuary.
 - This is not outside air but recirculated air.
 - There is always air in the upper part of the sanctuary that never moves
 - Question of air exchange in the chancel area – Laurel indicated that there is an air source and return.
 - Each space in the building has its own ERV (energy recovery ventilation) – when air is getting mixed in the system it is being flashed with UV light.
 - Question about whether doors and windows should be opened as long as the weather is warm

The following items were postponed due to lack of time:

B & G

- Status: building occupancy information required by city

Update: Committee activities, including:

- Membership coordinator search & Membership committee chair
- Green Sanctuary: Vegan dinner group wants to be part of GS; suggest Climate Action Task Force be another part

Meeting adjourned 9:03 p.m.