

OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES Final
September 20, 2022
Via Zoom online

Attending via Zoom: Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, Jud Leonard, Karen Bottar, Wayne Everett, Eric Haas, Chris Krebs (BOT), Anne Watson Born, Parisa Parsa, Devin Shmueli, Linda Ross (asst clerk)

Called to order 7:03 p.m.

**Invocation/Chalice Lighting/Reading – Susan
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:

- Laurel moved and Karen seconded that the August minutes be approved. Unanimous approval, motion passed.
- By email
 - On August 23, Susan forwarded a request from Bill Dusetz and Chris O'Donnell asking permission to contact other UU congregations, specifically the West Roxbury and Sterling congregations, to join FUUSN at Ferry Beach in October to ensure that there are enough attendees. Unanimous approval, request approved.
 - On Sept. 12, Karen sent the following: "There is a checking account that was used by Ron Margolin when he ran Community Breakfasts. The Finance Committee (including me as an FC member and the Treasurer) recommend we close this account and bring the breakfast into the FUUSN budget. The current balance is \$1105 and we would show this as in income item in the budget. Additional income would be credited to this account as funds are collected at each breakfast. The expenses would be charged to an expense account for the breakfasts." All voted yes; the change was approved.
- Lay ministers' retreat - Jud
 - Scheduled for mid-October
 - Would like \$350 for food and rent
 - Karen moved and Laurel seconded that this money be provided; all voted yes, motion passed..

BOT meeting – Susan

- Thanks to Pat Rohan for picnic
- Discussion of the role of the interim minister
- Significant amount of time planning for their retreat, which occurred last week
- Chris
 - Great retreat; a few members were unable to attend.
 - Discussed priorities for BOT over the next year or two, until the next settled minister arrives.

- There will be a process for assembling the search committee for the next settled minister, hopefully ready by March 2023. One person expressed concern that this seemed late.
- Parisa – first there will be a transition team of 2-3 people to get the history and feel of the congregation, and to help with forming the search committee.

Staff update

Parisa

- She has been getting to know the staff and processes.
- She has been in training for interim minister duties.

Devin

- Held volunteer orientation
- Will be having volunteer guides (formerly teachers) get together once a month for ½ hour
- Coming of Age – first meeting was last Friday; they will be going to Thompson Island in 10 days.
- Has been having meetings with parents.

Financial – Karen

- August expenditures
 - Pledges coming in, strong contributions
 - Income – rental income positive YTD
 - Committee for the services auction will be getting together soon – one question is whether those who purchased items that weren't able to be used because of the pandemic would be willing to donate the value.
 - Expenses – utility costs have risen; the finance committee is looking at this.
- Christmas tree expenses – Eric
 - He thinks we will spend more than is budgeted for the purchase of trees, but doesn't have an exact figure yet.
- Karen –
 - The finance committee has voted approval to a change in the way the staff is paid to be in compliance with Massachusetts Labor Law. It has been once monthly but needs to be semi-monthly, on the 15th and 30th of each month.
 - Laurel moves to approve this change, Jud seconded, all voted yes, motion passed..

B & G issues – Laurel

- Status of parking lot expansion
 - Negotiations continue; FUUSN attorney has been excellent.
 - As of now, there will be separate areas for FUUSN and Mark Development. Mark Development will [pay for liability insurance coverage for use of the parking lot and will sign an indemnity agreement](#) they will pay 50% of snow plowing costs.
 - Bob Persons is looking at installing a solar array system over the parking lot which would provide electricity to FUUSN.
 - Renting of basement classrooms to Pine Village would require a new entrance and restrooms. This, in turn, would require new architectural plans, paid for from the major maintenance budget. There is a master plan for this new

entrance which was done in 2011. A new entrance will require approval from the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

- Placement of tapestry square hanging
 - A drawing was sent to illustrate the proposed placement, which would be over the door from the sanctuary to the office hallway.
 - Karen moved and Eric seconded that the drawings be accepted; all voted yes, motion passed.

FUUSN Covid Protocols

- Mask protocols
 - Susan had received emails from congregants after she had sent out emails on masking. She thinks we should move to “mask optional” for RE activities. Very long discussion of masking issue in general.
 - Conclusions
 - § “Mask optional” for RE activities starting today
 - § October 30 will be the last “mask required” Sunday in the sanctuary
 - § Community breakfast will be masked until people are eating (same as last spring) – or the date can be changed to later in the fall. No need to have outdoor seating.
 - § Ferry Beach – will hold on decision until the Ferry Beach rules are determined.
 - § Coming of Age mentor dinners – masked until eating
 - § Laurel moved and Eric seconded that RE stop the mask requirement as of today; Oct. 30 will be the last day of required masking elsewhere. All voted yes, motion passed.
 - Wayne moved and Karen seconded that the community breakfast will be masked until people are eating (same as last spring). All voted yes, motion passed.

Update: Committee activities

- Hospitality – coffee update
 - So far, only one person has volunteered but she is also doing RE.
- Committee meetings – scheduled for:
 - November 19
 - March 18, 2023
- The membership committee had a retreat last Saturday, good session

Thank yous – Jen van Campen and Eric Moore (volunteers for Coming of Age) have been very helpful and enthusiastic.

Meeting adjourned 9:00p.m.