

OPERATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES Final

November 15, 2022

Via Zoom online

Attending via Zoom: Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, Jud Leonard, Karen Bottar, Eric Haas, Connie Stubbs, Hattie Kerwin Derrick (BOT), Parisa Parsa, Devin Shmueli (after 7:30 p.m.), Linda Ross (asst clerk)

Called to order 7:00 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.

Approvals:

- Jud moved and Laurel seconded that the October minutes be approved. Unanimous approval, motion passed.
- By email
 - Susan sent an email on October 24, requesting permission from Pat Rohan for a services auction to be held on February 4, 2023. Unanimous approval, auction approved.
 - Susan sent an email request on October 29 from Laurel, requesting that the Yard Sale team be allowed to have a table at coffee hour on October 30 to sell Halloween items. Four responded in favor, table approved.
 - On Nov. 4, following Eric's report of the cost of the Christmas trees, Susan sent an email requesting approval of the increase in price from the budgeted \$19,000 to \$22,495. Unanimous approval, amount approved.

BOT October meeting – Jud

- Much of the meeting was concerned with the parking lot proposal
 - BOT could call for a congregation vote on whether the parking lot proposal should be approved. Concern was expressed that it would not be approved
 - Concern was expressed over the 99 year lease and how the space would be shared.
 - Decision; FUUSN attorney is to go back to Mark Development to negotiate for a 15 yr. lease maximum and no parking 2 a.m.- 6 a.m.
 - Laurel informed the Ops Council that Mark Development has declined the above offer, will only accept a proposal with a 99 year lease. Therefore, the proposal will not go ahead.
- Discussion of the membership position and possible re-structuring
- BOT appointed a transition team to develop proposals for ways that the BOT might select the search committee for the new settled minister.
 - Members of the transition team so far are Brian Gill and Bill Horne.

Financial – Karen

- October expenditures – nothing surprising on income side; forecast for utility cost has increased. About \$11,000 net income to date.

B & G issues – Laurel

- BOT has asked her to get prices for doing the changes to the building she had proposed, and the parking lot.
 - An architect will be involved; will take some time
 - Discussion of whether an estimate should be obtained for parking lot construction now, by FUUSN.
- Yard Sale sign has disappeared; looking for information on its whereabouts

FUUSN Covid Protocols

- No changes to current protocol

Proposal for FUUSN staffing and support – Parisa

- The biggest issue currently is the proposed re-organization after Heather's departure
- She gave a PowerPoint presentation about the proposed re-organization
- An "experimental period" is proposed, with Devin taking over membership duties. The new organization model will be re-evaluated in April.
- Parisa answered questions about the proposal
 - Part of the intent of the proposal is to review the duties of the RE director and membership director
 - Some duties are currently not covered at all, e.g., someone in charge of technology
 - Devin discussed the proposal from his perspective
 - Believes that looking at staffing and duties from a new perspective is good
 - Connie Stubbs
 - Excited about prospect of looking at things anew
 - Worried about duties and time involved
 - Wants to see the membership committee involved in the discussion
 - Sees the proposal as provisional only
 - Worries that the proposal takes the "ministry" part out of the membership position.
 - Further discussion and comments on proposal
 - General consensus was positive
 - Concern about staff time
 - Financial implication was discussed. Parisa had already reviewed this, and believes that FUUSN should come out about even with the budget
 - Jud moved that the Ops Council encourage Parisa and Devin to go ahead with the proposal; Eric seconded; unanimous approval, motion passed..

Staff Updates

Parisa

- There has been a steady increase in the numbers of people coming to the Sunday service in person
- She has begun a “conversation with the minister/talkback” once a month after the services; the first one was this past Sunday. This will alternate with member service-organized small group discussions for those congregants who prefer such a setting.
- She has been doing monthly visits to those congregants who live at Cabot Park Village. Devin had suggested having K –2nd graders visit Cabot Park Village during a service ; this visit will be Nov. 20. Parents will drop children off and pick up from Cabot so that no additional permission is needed.

Devin

- Youth group activity
 - The first activity will be an escape room this coming Saturday, with 17 attendees.
 - Sunday morning after service will be the first youth group steering committee meeting.
- The children’s council will be starting; they will be having their 1st meeting Dec. 4 after the service.
- Over 60s group has reached out to find out what they can do to connect with children.

Update: Committee activities

- Holiday Fair – question about whether lunch and coffee would be served; Laurel – the answer is no due to lack of space.
- Christmas tree sales – Eric
 - Fairly good response for volunteers
- Committee chairs meeting Nov. 19
 - Snacks will be provided
 - Susan working on the agenda; to include discussion of the 8th principle
- FUUSN 175th anniversary October 2023
 - Looking for ideas for how to commemorate
 - Send ideas to Susan

Thank yous – Denise Bousquet and Connie Stubbs for the Yard Sale (they can thank others); Lynne Karlson for Dinners for 7; Pat and Jackie Rohan for Halloween Party.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.