

Minutes TUCW Board of Trustees

Monday August 19, 2013

Present: Randy Burnham, Chuck Colletti, Denny Davidoff, Roberta Finkelstein, Lyn Hamilton, Bobbie Herman, Michele Garvey, Laura Steinbrecher, Ken Vogel, Ted Yang

Absent: Steve Axthelm, Sal Mollica

Staff: Mary Collins, David Vita

Participants: Kristen Leddy, Tom Hearne

Randy Burnham called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM followed by opening words from Garvey and a check-in.

Rev. Finkelstein led the BOT in a discussion using passages from “Governance & Ministry” as text. Chapters 4 and 5 will be discussed at the September meeting.

Burnham noted the success of the August Tag Sale which netted approximately \$8500. He acknowledged Peggy Blocks 19 years of arrangements outside Frank Hall’s office. He reported that the July luau event had raised about \$525 which Jim Keenan had contributed to Frank’s purse, although unauthorized to do so by the BOT.

Vogel’s Treasurer’s Report covered the need to appoint and train an Asst. Treasurer, the promise of a final 2013 FY accounting from the Finance Committee before the September meeting, and the installation of a new pledge tracking system that works well with Quick Books.

Colletti reported that the sale of the Sheila Lane house had been delayed because of boiler repairs and extensive mold problems. Nevertheless, he hopes that the closing will be no later than August 30.

Colletti raised the question of undertaking what he described as a “mini capital campaign” to restore at least some of the funds lent by the Endowment Committee to cover the purchase of the Sheila Lane property, noting that he had previously volunteered to lead such an effort. Discussion was spirited and the clear consensus of the group is that a much more comprehensive campaign needs to be undertaken as there are several renovations and improvements required for the church proper. Finkelstein suggested that a study might begin early in 2014.

Herman presented a recommendation regarding access for elderly and frail members and visitors. She has been working with Howard Aibel, Carol Goddar and Sal Mollica, among others. They are keen on our buying and installing a Savaria V-1504 Vertical Platform Lift which is described in literature as “built to carry a wheelchair and passenger safely up and down one or more levels”. The equipment is priced at \$29,107 and it would likely take another \$10,000 for installation and other expenses. Reaction from the BOT was favorable and this recommendation will be factored into the capital needs discussion during the winter.

A comprehensive past year financial report for Voices Café was received by the trustees without much discussion but with plenty of affirmation and compliments for Hearne and Vita.

Kristen Leddy brought the BOT up to date on protocols for recruitment and training of pastoral care associates worked out by Jim Francek and Alex Horsley who were not able to be present. Training and communications expenses are estimated at \$2000 which Vogel said could be found. Finkelstein will be responsible for oversight of the entire project and will keep board members apprised.

Under “New Business Garvey questioned the low brick wall that has been erected by the nursery school tenant on the front lawn. How was this project authorized and why? Colletti suggested he might have agreed to it informally and said he would present a more detailed picture at the September meeting.

Yang expressed continuing concern about the lack of discipline regarding the various fundraising projects undertaken by congregation members and committees. We have a policy but it lacks adherents. Further discussion about this continuing dilemma in September.

Assignments: Garvey will thank Linda Hudson and Lynda Bluestein for their work with summer services.

Process Observations: Process and time allocations needs more work! We will move to a Consent Agenda at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Taft Davidoff, Clerk