

Minutes TUCW Board of Trustees
Monday February 11, 2013

Present: Steve Axthelm, Randy Burnham, Chuck Colletti, Denny Davidoff, Michele Garvey, Kristen Leddy, Sal Mollica, Ken Vogel, Ted Yang

Absent: Frank Hall, Lyn Hamilton, Bobbie Herman

Staff: Mary Collins, David Vita, John Carroll

Observers: Joann Coviello, David Smith

Meeting called to order by Chuck Colletti at 7:35 PM

Meeting began with check-in.

Observers: J. Coviello expressed concern about TUCW committee members and outside renters leaving our premises in bad, sloppy and sometimes dangerous condition. This issue had been brought to our attention in John Carroll's staff report as well. Discussion resulted in decision to insist that TUCW members take responsibility for fulfilling the duties in a checklist they will receive from Carroll. Renters should be assessed an extra fee for oversight by someone of our choosing who will make sure the place is clean and securely locked at departure.

Approval 02/01 EC minutes : Moved Leddy, Second Burnham. Passed.

President's Report: Colletti spoke about the expense of a generator for the building (\$67K) as something that might get folded into a future capital campaign. The Meeting House will be secured with a keypad and codes will be distributed by Carroll. He gave a preliminary report on the 2013 Chowdafest while noting that Jim Keenan was still working on gross and net numbers. Net receipts will be shared equally between the CT Food Bank and the congregation.

Response to Staff Reports: Collins announced the purchase of a new and large sectional sofa for the Youth Room which will be paid for out of the Jerry Davidoff Memorial Gift. BOT approved \$150 for Vita's "coffee fund" for potential members.

COM Vacancy: Burnham moved, Mollica second: Motion to name Elaine McMillan to fill the vacancy on the Committee on Ministry due to Carolyn Lavender's death. Passed.

Year Round Stewardship Committee: David Smith updated the trustees on the upcoming annual canvass and how it is being themed as a celebration of Frank Hall's ministry with four "Frank 'n' Fun" gatherings as centerpiece. Materials were passed around and discussion included shared responsibility for calling on large donors, the relationship between YRSC work and the financial aspects of the Transition Committee's plans, and theories of appropriate pledge levels. The ongoing work of Smith and the YRSC members received considerable praise from individual trustees.

Treasurer's Report: Vogel distributed a 2013 Budget Summary including budget income and expenses which currently project a \$20,000 surplus. He advocated for increasing the TUCW contribution to the UUA and the Metro NY District to reach "Fair Share". Mollica moved, Leddy second motion to do so. Passed.

Sheila Lane update: Mollica reported on a recent meeting with the banker who has oversight over the mortgage. He asked us to begin amortizing the loan and suggested that we propose an amount we feel comfortable with when a subsequent meeting is held in April. Mollica and Vogel will bring a motion regarding a proposal to the BOT meeting in March. Further discussion covered rental and sale possibilities, use of the SL house by an interim minister, and change in financial reporting status so that SL expenses are now part of the annual operating budget.

Task Force on Elderly/Disabled Access: Continued to March in Herman's absence.

Interim Minister Search Committee: 52 people attended the post-late service on 2/3 at which Debra Haffner discussed interim ministry and UUA practices and procedures. Her report was videotaped and is accessible on the website. Leddy said the application process is underway and UUA Transitions Director, Rev. Keith Kron, Metro NY Ministerial Settlement Rep, Rev. Craig Hirschberg, would be visiting with search committee members over dinner on March 5.

Communications: Axthelm led a discussion about the increasing length of Sunday BOT announcements and what considerations should be given to priority subject matter and content of announcement. Trustees also commented on where and when and how meeting minutes should be posted. The Clerk was instructed to request of Carol Porter that Soundings include the suggestion that members of the congregation should look on the website for minutes and other pertinent governance information.

Policies: Yang reported that Carroll had completed the task of gathering all current policies and asked colleague trustees to study them and make comments. Leddy distributed a draft of updated Safe Congregation policies and practices and moved to have the revised document read, reviewed and voted on via e-mail ASAP. Garvey seconded and the motion passed.

Transition Team update: The Board went into executive session to hear a report by Vogel and Garvey involving financial and personnel considerations. No actions were reported out of the session.

New Business: Garvey noted that she had placed a Camp Jewel announcement in Soundings and the prospects were iffy and dependent on the willingness of the Youth Group and COA to participate as well as recruiting a chair or co-chairs.

Process Observations: Axthelm put his head in his hands which spoke volumes. BOT members continue to be engaged and enthusiastic but talk a lot and over each other.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Taft Davidoff, Clerk