

Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg
Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees
May 11, 2015

Board Members Present: Lori Price, President; Jane Fanning, Co-VP; Laurie Clement, Co-VP; Reggie Craig; Cynthia Patterson; Andy Chirch

Absent, unexcused: Ian O'Hara

Guests: Rev. Jack Donovan; Sally Carville; Michael Pohl; Lisa Hill; Karen and Dave Coale; Jeri H, new office manager

1. Lori opened the meeting at 7:04.
2. Jane moved to approve the agenda, Reggie seconded.
3. *Minister's Report – see attached.* Jack highlighted:
 - a) A pedestrian fell on the Arlington St. sidewalk and we received a letter from her attorney. Our insurance company's investigation determined that this was city property and not UUSP's liability. Jeri will prepare a letter for the City, noting uneven sidewalk areas and potential hazards, to try to prevent future problems.
 - b) Jack's next "Basics of UUism" class will be moved to noon on Sundays.
 - c) We need to consider appointing a new rep to Cluster since Penny Duff's health may preclude her continuing to do this.
 - d) Jack introduced Jeri H, our new office manager. Andy and Sally will be meeting with her this week to determine what software is needed for the new computer that is being purchased.
4. *President's Report –* Lori will be gone for two weeks, May 12 through 27, and will have no cell or internet connection. All BOT issues should be directed to the co-VPs, Laurie and Jane.
5. *Treasurer's Report*
 - a) Our financial condition is "better than it was" but there is still concern about the remainder of the fiscal year. If we continue as projected, the end of the year loss will be \$3,000.
 - b) Sally wrote a new description of the Treasurer's duties. Please review for discussion at next month's BOT meeting.
 - c) We received the 2nd false alarm report from the City; the first was set off by the Meditation group, the second on 4/27 at 10:00pm. We will be charged for each succeeding false alarm - \$50, then \$100, then \$200. Motion by Cynthia: Jeri will send information to all renters about the alarm system and will ask for updated contact information. Reggie seconded, passed.
6. *Consent agenda:* Cynthia moved to approve, Reggie seconded, motion passed.

Old Business

1. *Financial Review* – still needed.

2. *Facility Rental Coordinator* – Meredith Keith-Chirch submitted a plan and lengthy discussion revealed that there are still details to be worked out. This will be revisited next month.

3. *Assisted Listening Report* – Andy's research indicates that it will cost \$6,000 to install an Assisted Listening Loop that would enable clear audio for people with hearing aids and a full system that would improve the audio for everyone will cost \$25,000-\$30,000. Sally reported that we previously had an Assisted Listening Fund to which people had donated \$540 but this fund appears to have become co-mingled with the general funds. She suggested we take \$540 from UUSP's checking account and add it to the \$3475 in the current Assisted Listening Fund. Laurie proposed this as a motion, Reggie seconded, passed. A debate ensued as to asking the congregation to donate the additional \$2000 needed for the Loop. No decision was reached.

New Business

8. *RE request to hold OWL training* one full week-end in August, presented by Lisa Hill. The purpose is to get staff and volunteers trained to teach K-1st and 4th-6th graders. The biggest expense would be flying in and housing trainers from out of state since there are none in Florida. Participants would be charged \$250-\$300, to be paid by their UU churches, and we would need 20 enrollees. This would be advertised to UU churches throughout the state. Motion to approve made by Andy, seconded by Laurie, motion passed.

10. *Centennial Committee Update* – continued to next month

11. *Canvas Report* – continued to next month

12. *Election of BOT officers* - Cynthia moved to keep Lori as President, Laurie and Jane as Co-Vice-Presidents, Reggie seconded, motion passed.

13. *Delegates for GA* - GA will be held in Portland, Oregon and we do not have the budget to send any delegates.

14. *Building use by Poetry Nuts/Building Use Policy*

a) Poetry Nuts use wasn't approved by BOT. Jack gave the group permission because he sees it as a church activity. However, the group is listed on Meet-Up, primarily non-UU's attend

and a flat fee is charged for refreshments. Jack will talk to Paul Burnore about making regular donations to the church and about signing the required liability insurance form.

b) It was agreed that the Building Use Policy needs to be revisited, clarified. This will be added to the agenda for the JUNE BOT meeting.

15. *Request for AA meeting upstairs in Conway* - This will start as a small group, meeting Saturday mornings, led by a UUSP member. It was again noted that Building Use Policy needs to be clarified and building costs per hour estimated. The group will be asked to make a small donation through August and then rent may be established.

Motion to approve made by Andy, seconded by Reggie, motion passed.

16. *Building and Grounds fund raising* – B & G will explore ideas; significant funds are needed to install better signage out front and to paint the church.

17. *Southern Region Leadership Conference* – We will not participate because it costs thousands of dollars. Instead we will opt for a Fall week-end Leadership Retreat with Connie Goodbread at no cost. The BOT approved October 2, 3 & 4 for the Leadership workshop.

18. *Inclusiveness when making changes affecting the congregation* - Reggie stated he has heard comments of discontent about decisions made by the BOT without including the people or committees affected. Lori stated that it is the responsibility of members to be informed by reading Infonet and attending BOT meetings. It was noted that some communication problems will be avoided once Program Council starts meeting again.

19. *Fall Leadership Meeting with Connie Goodbread* – (See #17 above for discussion.)

20. *Bylaws update* – Discussion will continue at a later date as time was limited at this meeting.

21. *Projector* - The old projector has been found, the new one apparently cannot be returned. Both will be kept in secure locked place

22. *Jack's Contract* - Lori sent it to him last week. Jack asked that all salary be zeroed out, all monies to be contracted for housing to improve taxes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50.

Action Items

1. Jeri will send a letter to the City bout sidewalk disrepair.
2. Andy and Sally will meet with Jeri to ascertain software needed for new office computer.
3. Jack will talk to Penny about sharing Cluster responsibilities.
4. All BOT members to review Sally's description of Treasurer's responsibilities.
5. Jeri will send a letter to all renters reminding them of alarm procedure and asking for updated contact information.
6. Sally will move \$540 from the General Fund to the Assisted Listening Fund.
7. Jack will talk to Paul Burnore about making donations and signing liability forms.

Respectfully submitted,

Dani Skrzypek

Temporary Clerk to the BOT