

UUSS Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2016

Board Members Present: President Linda Clear, Vice-President Linda Klein ,
Treasurer Denis Edgren, Secretary Gordon Gerwig,
Carl Gardner, Carol Jacobs, Janet Lopes, Dennis Pottenger,
Skylar Primavera

Board Members Absent: Shirley Hines

Staff Present: Rev. Roger Jones, Rev. Lucy Bunch

Staff Absent: None

Guests: Patty Taylor Gutermute, Sally Baker

1. Welcome

- a. President Linda opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.
- b. Carol did the centering.

2. Consent Agenda

- a. The February BOT minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Aesthetics Committee Report—Patty Taylor Gutermute.

- a. Her report is in the drop box.
- b. For curtaining, Theatre I added eyebolts perceived to be an eyesore. They did not have permission to do this, although many congregants haven't noticed them.
- c. Perhaps there should be some policy governing issues like this. Lucy will approach Theatre I to counsel them about this.
- d. Another idea instead of painting the wall or a sculpture is a theatrical lighting screen (a "gobo") that can project a pattern or scene on to the walls.
- e. A local artist (Dave Lane) made a sculpture out of the iron I-beams that held up the old welcome tarp. He makes moving sculptures that are shown at the state fair. He might make an outdoor sculpture for us to fill the oval space between the main building and the RE building, but there are concerns about vandalism.
- f. Linda K moved and Denis seconded to approve the hexagon Welcome Hall project as presented by Patty G., to include the \$200 for materials and \$200 for labor (funds to come out of the Building Fund), and it passed unanimously.
- g. It was suggested that a Blue Sheet item call for ideas on what to do with the white walls on either side of the stage.
- h. Colleen (AV person) asked if there could be a bulletin board in the hallway. Patty is OK with this. It would alleviate the pressure to have one in the Welcome Hall.

The office will take care of this.

4. **Lay Leadership, Justice Project**—Roger

- a. We want to find a unifying, umbrella theme for social justice for the coming year. We could tie many church programs into this theme.
- b. Roger and Lucy are proposing that we adopt the study and action issue from the UUA General Assembly.
- c. The issue that started in 2014 and will continue until 2018 is Economic Inequality. So we would confront economic inequality or economic inequity.
- d. Lots of material on the UUA web site related to class, poverty, homelessness, education, the connection between racial disparity and economic inequality.
- e. Preach on related aspects of the topic, discussion forums, perhaps book groups would choose books related to the topic, service activities built around it (like Family Promise), coordinate with R.E.
- f. Danger of a "big umbrella" that lacks focus.
- g. May not need Evan from PCD to help us on this. Why not use a theme for which UUA already has a lot of resources available?
- h. The topic was chosen by GA in 2014, and it may result in a "Statement of Conscience" at the 2018 General Assembly.
- i. Denis moved and Linda K. seconded to adopt Economic Inequality as the Social Justice theme of UUSS, to be intergenerational, details to be determined, and it passed unanimously.
- j. Announcement to be in the Unigram about what this means, to be circulated to the BOT prior to publication.

5. **APMT Report, Linda C.**—Admin Property Management Team:

- a. We're going to buy some wood chairs, we don't have enough, and we want chairs that match.
- b. Going to ask contractor who installed lights on the driveway behind the building to give us an estimate for lights in main driveway.
- c. We will add more disabled parking because people have asked for it.
- d. We'll be building a path from the patio to the labyrinth.
- e. We now have a secure drop box (courtesy of John McMillan) for the cash collected from the Sunday offering.
- f. The Loop system is better, but there still are problems.
- g. The TV will be installed the first week of April according to Tim.
- h. Monument & other signage
 - i. Patty has pictures of it. Jim Eastman sent renderings of various options to the BOT; the PDF is in the March 2016 Drop Box.
 - ii. Linda asked for feedback from people who had various suggestions—parallel to the street, perpendicular, raised letters, etc. Perpendicular easier for new people to see. Unitarian Universalists plus address.
 - iii. Meeting this Saturday in the Fahs room, Jim may tweak the design.

- iv. Also working on rendering for the signs directing to Fahs room, RE, Office, an Office Hours sign, etc.
- v. APMT will make a recommendation to the BOT on signage for a decision. By the next meeting we should have some estimates.

6. Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report is in the Drop Box.

- a. Income was much less than budget income mostly because no auction yet.
- b. YTD we are \$5300 in surplus.
- c. Three payrolls in March so expenses will run higher for that month.
- d. Tentative budget posted in the 2016-02 February Drop Box. It doesn't include any additional raises for staff and creates a small deficit of about \$5,000.
- e. A hypothetical 2% across the board increase for all staff and clergy produces a \$13,000 deficit.
- f. Could use Capital Outlay funds of about \$100,000 to pay for principal and interest on the loan since the loan is a long-term benefit to UUSS. Then use the savings to pay for salary increases.
- g. Another possibility is to use building funds (aka Capital Campaign, with a balance of about \$90,000). Still have building projects we need to pay for. \$30,000 set aside to pay for immediate building needs.
- h. Capital Outlay plus Capital Campaign funds is about \$164,000 which is over the policy of 25% of annual expenses to be maintained in the reserve fund. So we could consider not funding the reserve fund.
- i. Finance Committee recommended using Capital Outlay Funds.

7. Stewardship—Janet

- a. Pledge update as of today: we have 350 pledging units, we've received 175 pledges thus far.
- b. 39% have increased their pledge by 10% or more.
- c. 14% have increased their pledge by less than 10%.
- d. 37% have kept their pledge the same.
- e. 10% have decreased.
- f. We have 14 new pledgers.
- g. Pledge drive officially ending this Sunday but there will be follow-up.
- h. \$321,212 has been pledged to date. If pledges were the same as last year it would be \$475,000. Goal for 2016-17 is \$485,000.
- i. Talent show—probably won't happen.
- j. 0.5% of purchases through Amazon Smile program accrue to UUSS. Purchasers should use smile.amazon.com—first time you need to pick UUSS (spelled out). Perhaps an announcement in the Blue Sheet and/or the Unigram.
- k. Why no donation button on our web site? Rental issues more important. Lucy to discuss with Dirk. We would need to take credit cards or use PayPal.

8. **Membership**—Linda K.
 - a. Great turnout for new members, even some young people and racially diverse.
9. **Program Council**—Carol.
 - a. No salad will be served on May 1st, which is the date of the Activity Fair.
 - b. Also date for voting on Nominating Committees slate of candidates.
10. **Minister's Reports.**
 - a. Roger's report is in the Drop Box. Additions:
 - i. \$2,289 (half of February offering) went to Wind Youth Services.
 - ii. Coverage for our pancake breakfast in Valley Community Newspapers, at least Carmichael and East Sac.
 - iii. District assembly in Fremont, April 22-24.
 - b. Lucy's report is in the Drop Box. Additions:
 - i. Should really check out Exploring UU classes which we offer at 9:30 before church on the third Sunday of each month. Great for new people to meet people of the BOT. History, sources, faith, principles, social justice covered, opportunities to learn.
 - ii. If we want to increase our rentals we need to spread the word. Other churches report that most of their rentals come from word of mouth. We have updated info on the web site and brochures.
11. **Sac State Strike Support.**
 - a. Professional staff wants a statement of support from UUSS on various grievances.
 - b. The feeling was the BOT couldn't speak for the congregation, we can't make an informed decision quickly (need to know both sides of the issue), and it might possibly jeopardize our tax status to weigh in on a political issue.
12. **Board Business.**
 - a. "Chili Sunday" April 3rd, potato bar April 10th. \$1200 raised thus far towards our \$2000 goal
 - b. Executive Committee April 14th.
 - c. Possible meeting on April 17th after church to discuss salaries.
 - d. Next meeting April 28th.
 - e. Carl is the next Centerer.
 - f. Staff salary decision deferred to the April meeting when we have more info on the pledge situation.
13. Carol did the closing.