

UUCO Board Retreat

11/04/2017

Attendees: Marge Holland, Eunice Benton, Amy Pearson, Michael Jenkins, Gail Stratton, Dinorah Sapp, Sandra Moss, Marty Fino, Walter Flaschka, Mari Kuhnle.

Finance Report: The current balance in the FNB checking account is \$360.47; the current balance in the Mechanics Bank checking account is \$23,565.86; the total of both accounts is \$23,926.33. Paypal has a balance of \$1,772.42 which will be transferred to the Mechanics Bank account next week. Sandra reported only one more mortgage payment remains and she noted that pledges have been coming in on a pretty regular basis. She informed the Board that the old wifi router was terrible despite frequent calls to technical support; a new wifi was purchased for approximately \$200 and it works "great."

Sandra reported that she checked on our insurance coverage and was told that if someone tripped or was injured in some manner as a result of a Sweetgum ball that we would be covered but the insurance agent said that our insurance may not be renewed the following year. Marge reviewed with the Board comments from the two recent congregational conversations about the tree removal, pros and cons for removing the tree were once again discussed and at the end of the Board's deliberations today all members renewed their vote to have the tree removed. The Board Summary that will appear in the next week's Sunday Service bulletin will inform the congregation of the final decision. Eunice suggested, and the Board fully supported the notion, that at the next upcoming Town Hall meeting a discussion will be held as to how we implement one or more suggestions from the congregation to mark the removal of the tree (e.g., planting another tree).

Marty moved to empower Sandra to explore whether or not our current insurance covers Board liability coverage and, if not, to report back to the Board how much such coverage would cost. Motion was seconded by Michael and was passed unanimously.

Based upon questionnaires that Gail Stratton had sent out to Board members in preparation for today's retreat, Gail identified three areas that Board members thought to be appropriate goals for Board action this coming year. The three areas are: Implementation of 'best practices,' exploring purchasing Billy Smith's property, and preparing for and scheduling Town Hall meetings. The Board broke down into three small groups with each group assigned to develop action steps to realize these goals.

Below are the recommendations produced by the three groups:

Best Practices: Group members recommended three areas (safety, financial, and personnel) that should be reviewed and where "best practices" action should be implemented, if not already in place. As a first step, the group recommended that congregation members need to be identified for each of these three areas who might have an expertise and interest in working on reviewing and implementing best practices. The Board as a whole brain stormed possible congregation members to serve on these committees, a list of identified members was compiled and the list will now be sent to the Leadership Development Committee (LDC). The LDC will consider further additions to the list and will then personally contact these identified individuals to see if they would be willing to serve on these

committees. Marty informed the group that he and Eunice have collected various UUA best practice manuals and documents that will aid the work of these subcommittees.

Exploring purchase of Billy Smith's abutting property (what would need to be done): Eunice suggested that the issue of purchasing Billy Smith's property should be presented to the congregation to see if they wish the Board to explore this matter further; the Board unanimously agreed. Marge noted that property expansion was one of the main items that surfaced in the visioning document from last year; the visioning document came about from the cottage dinners that were held. If the congregation approved further exploration of this matter, group members recommended several steps that would need to be taken. Step 1. Ground work - some of it has been done when purchasing the current UUCO location, e.g., who has worked on the UUCO property acquisition in the past, Step 2. Who is going to be our legal counsel, and what are some funding resources (such as UUA options)? Step 3. Get the actual proposal from Billy Smith. This issue of exploring the possibility of purchasing Billy Smith's property will be presented to the congregation at the next Town Hall meeting in December,

Town hall meetings: Group members reported that the Board will need to be alert to topics appropriate for Town Hall discussion, such as, purchasing additional property. The group also emphasized the need to train members to facilitate the Town Hall meetings; need for a note-taker who would publicize minutes following the meeting and, last but not least, food to help tide people over. Other suggestions for running and improving Town Hall meetings included: reading the covenant as to how we are going to behave towards one another; put out a suggestion box so that members can suggest topics for the town hall meetings. Group members noted that Town Hall meetings would help with communication and engage members. Possible next town hall meeting dates: December 3rd, end of January and the second Sunday in April.