

02/09/09

FUUSE Board Minutes for Wednesday, January 14th

Board Members present: Dave Szarmach, Jennifer Morriss, Tish Lewis, Bob Moore, Kendra Ford, Kimberly Wootan, Joy Bicknell, Karen Straub-Wiernicki

Others attending: Debbie Merrick, Carol Walker-Aten

Those not attending: Ray Zolton

Meeting began at 7:00 PM

Opening Words were offered by Bob: A positive anything is better than a negative nothing.

Old Business

BSFG

Carol Walker-Aten was invited by Dave to discuss a possible connection she has with two professionals (an architect and designer) that can comment, offer advice to the Board and BSFG about possibilities for a new building, location. The designer's name is Jeffrey Taylor and his associate architect's name is Christopher P. Williams. Carol mentioned the two men could come in, perhaps on a Saturday, and brainstorm with the Board, others about what is possible and affordable in terms of a building, renovation strategy. The cost estimate for this brainstorming session and follow-up is \$2000. A copy of an introductory letter signed by Mr. Taylor was distributed to the Board.

Debbie Merrick has a brother whose friend is an architect who can go over preliminary building ideas in terms of "evaluating building and site development feasibility and options." The friend's name is Tim Warnick from Warnick Associates, Inc. in Salem, NH. To begin the evaluation process, Mr. Warnick would need a retainer of \$2160. A copy of an introductory letter signed by Mr. Warnick was distributed to the Board.

The two proposals offered at the meeting were discussed by Board members and each proposal was taken under consideration as a viable strategy to move forward with the BSFG.

Dave made a motion to extend the BSFG feasibility fund. The motion was stated:

The January 31 deadline for the feasibility matching dollars fund drive is extended to March 31. The motioned was seconded and the motion carried.

Finances

The Finance Committee has offered to come and help individual committees to plan their budgets for fiscal year 2009-2010. As stated last month, the Committee is concerned about meeting the budget for this year. The Committee has recommended that:

- 1) UUA dues be held until June 2009, with the possibility of not paying the dues this year if FUUSE experiences a budget shortfall.
- 2) Recommend that the staff potentially hold or reduce professional expenses for 2009.

Dave made the comment that when times are tough, you need to emphasize the importance of church. This message needs to be conveyed to the Congregation so they see the value of continuing their financial commitment to FUUSE.

Sexton

Kendra brought to the attention of the Board that the Sexton, Steve Price, was unable to come and provide services on difficult weather days and so she shared this concern with the Board. She discussed her need to make a decision about the Sexton position and said she'd have a phone conversation with Steve. There was also a discussion of rehiring the services of the former cleaning woman if and when Steve was dismissed from the Sexton position.

Tish made a motion:

The Board recommends postponing payment of the last 3 quarters of UUA dues until June 30, 2009, and wait to see how the budget comes out.

The motion carried.

With regard to professional expenses being held or reduced for the remainder of 2009 (recommendation 2) from the Finance Committee), the Board is not making a recommendation at this time.

Building Use Policy

Bob and Pat Baker have met once to go over building use policy, fees, and liability issues. A fee structure for building use, rental of rooms was presented to the Board (first draft) and the Board offered written and verbal comments to Bob after some discussion. Bob plans to meet with Pat Baker to draft a final fee schedule and building use agreement and will report back to the Board.

Couple of notes:

DRE report – a copy has been submitted (electronic copy).

Program Council meeting was postponed due to icy weather.

Strategic Plan

Tish is encouraging those in charge of committees to pencil in dates or check marks to indicate that the 105 actions stated in the strategic plan are being implemented and/or completed according to the schedule for 2008-2009.

Other Business

Cynthia Young, Lisa Burk-McCoy, and Chris Chance are hoping to continue a yoga class that has been offered by Lisa since last year. The class is being offered through Adult RE to promote the class and to potentially attract more participants. Cynthia, Lisa, and others would like the class to continue under the umbrella of Adult RE but would like to offer Lisa some compensation for instructing the class. A *suggested donation* means of generating revenue for Lisa could be a way to compensate Lisa. A comment was made that suggested donations would be fine, but not a specified dollar amount. The issue of whether instructors should receive income seems to be a sticking point. However, the spiritual needs of congregants are being met and the program would help build and sustain the FUUSE community. A suggestion was made to move this issue to Program Council to get their feedback. Feedback will come back to the Board at a future meeting.

Karen made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 10th Board meeting with changes. The motion carried.

Notes on Pledge Drive and Gift:

A suggestion was made to have the Board Chair draft a letter to FUUSE congregants of the importance for sustaining the church financially and that their commitment would be much appreciated during these difficult times.

Kendra suggested the Congregation be told about a large gift that was received by an anonymous donor. The announcement of this gift could be presented by Tish and Jim before the Congregation at a future service.

A note was made that the draft of the Building Use Policy be presented to the Program Council for review.

Meeting ended at 9:15 PM.

Action and/or issue	Responsible Party and/or target date
Board minutes for December 10 th were approved after Board review.	Board of Trustees, the motion carried.
The January 31 2009 deadline for the BFSG feasibility matching dollars fund drive is extended to March 31 2009.	The motioned was initiated by Dave, seconded and the motion carried. The deadline is extended to 3/31/09
The Board recommends postponing payment of the last 3 quarters of UUA dues until June 30, 2009, and wait to see how the budget comes out.	Board of Trustees, the motion carried.
Bob and Pat Baker will prepare an updated fee structure for rental of rooms in buildings on FUUSE property. The application form for rental of rooms and events will also be reviewed and updated.	This action was a continuing action from last month's Board meeting. Bob will follow up with Pat Baker and report to the Board at the February meeting.
There was a suggestion during the December meeting that Board members contact 30 core families of FUUSE to help initiate the Pledge Drive that begins in February. It was thought that each Board member could be allocated 4 families and it would be their responsibility to touch base with them.	The idea was tabled, and was planned to be brought up at a future Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Moore