

East Shore Board of Trustees Meeting

September 8, 2019

Present: Julia Kotowski, Mark Guizlo, Sue Borstein, Minna Zelch, Mary Stewart-McGovern, Jared Hammond, Shirley Hairston

Absent: Diana Jackson, Bob Ross

Attending,: Rev Denis Letourneau Paul, Halcyon Domanski, Marten Schreiber, Ruth Troup

Meeting called to order at 12:25 pm by Board Chair, Julia Kotowski. Mary Stewart- McGovern is moderator. Quorum established. Brief reading and check-in.

Additions to the new business:

- Marten has a request to borrow a ladder for usage at the Morgan Swamp
- Request to have American Flag displayed in sanctuary
- Request to have Finance Committee moved to top of reports section.

Motion made by Mark Guizlo to accept August Board minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Minna Zelch. Motion approved.

New Business:

1. Board Retreat is September 14th at Morgan Swamp. Agenda of goals for retreat shared.
2. Upcoming Events. Encouraged to attend the variety of interfaith/community events scheduled for this month. Encouraged board and members to make contributions to these events.
3. Next East Shore clean-up day is October 5th. Would like more people to participate in these days. Appreciation to Marten for writing out what needs/tasks are for each clean-up day.
4. Discussion regarding need to record Board decisions made outside of meeting time when issues of urgency require Board vote. This question arose related to rental agreement with home schoolers. Ruth Troup noted that currently no provisions in by-laws for electronic voting, thus Board needs to formally vote at scheduled meetings or conduct emergency meetings.

Lengthy discussion of the terms of the home school rental contract and resolve related to insurance coverage. Concerns about use of the playground given current safety concerns with need for tilling and additional mulch.

Motion made by Shirley Hairston and modified by Mary Stewart-McGovern as follows:

Motion made to accept the short-term rental agreement ending on November 30, 2019 with the Lake County Secular Home School Co-op with stipulation that no there is no playground usage until it (the playground) is up to safety standards. Seconded by Jared Hammond. Motion passed.

Discussion about use of release form if Home Schooler parents want to assist with till and mulching the playground. Mary will look for release forms and Halcyon will coordinate this.

Additional discussion about playground issues. At Board request, Halcyon will put out notice to church membership that the playground is closed until it can be brought up to safety standards. Shirley did note that mulch/screened grindings have already been budgeted for but the manpower is needed to till and mulch.

5. American Flag. Shirley shared that she was asked by another member of the church if standing American flag could be placed in sanctuary. Board Chair shared that this had been discussed in previous year's meetings and that there were concerns about separation of church and state and that American flag had different meanings to congregants. Discussed that this would be worthy of larger congregational discussion; however, it also would relate to displaying of lots of different flags that have meaning to church members. Shirley will relay discussion back to the individual church member.
6. Marten asked permission to use the tall step ladder for project at Nature Conservancy. Board appreciated that he made request as Chair of building committee and that Board allows him to do this.

Reports:

1. Finance Committee

Shirley Hairston made motion as request from Finance Committee that a Special Congregational Meeting be called for the purposes of (1) authorizing additional expenditures from the Building Fund to complete the repairs to the administrative wing of the building and (2) to authorize a new Building Fund campaign. Motion seconded by Mary Stewart-McGovern. Ruth Troup has agreed to lead the Capital Campaign. Lengthy discussion on original purposes of the 2016 campaign (HVAC, parking lot and sewer lifter were focus). Of the \$157,000 pledged in 2016, 93% of those pledges have been completed. Discussed pros/cons of doing a campaign at this time and the long-term challenge of how to maintain the building. Marten has been diligent in getting quotes for the needs for roof replacement, the additional problems on the administrative wing and other repairs needs of the church. Discussion on the process needed to call a Special Congregational meeting.

Motion by Mark Guizlo to call the question. Seconded. Motion to call Special Congregational meeting passed. Special Congregational Meeting will be held October 6, 2019 at 11:45 am. Letters will be sent via email or mail to all eligible voting members.

2. Chair – see report.

3. Minister- see report.

4. DRE – see report.

5. Building and Grounds. As noted, early, Board decision that playground is off limits until it is up to safety standards. Marten wants to make bathrooms in the RE wing unisex. Steve Hairston is working on RFQs for the administrative wall, roof and duct work. Marten is also getting quotes about roof repairs including insulation of the roof. House Next Door – Dan Bond and Marvin Detar have scheduled three work days to get debris out.

6. Membership – see report. 157 members with new UU class scheduled.

7. Treasurer report- House Next Door has spent 68% of the allocated funds. Mortgage is now being paid online, and overall in good shape to pay current bills.

Motion made by Mary Stewart- McGovern to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented. Seconded by Mark Guizlo. Motion passed

8. Financial Secretary – Concern that grounds committee is over budget as there is not a good system in the committee for a purchase procedure. Mary will look into possible forms and procedures to implement.

9. Committee on Ministry – Group meeting today after Board meeting.

Motion made by Shirley Hairston to move into Executive Session. Seconded by Mark Guizlo Motion passed. Entered session at 2:10 pm.

Motion made by Mary Stewart-McGovern to move out of Executive Session. Seconded by Jared Hammond. Motion passed. Exited session at 2:25 pm.

Motion made by Shirley Hairston to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Mary Stewart-McGovern. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:28 pm.

Next East Shore Board of Trustees meeting is Sunday, October 13, 2019 at 12:15 pm.

Submitted by Sue Borstein