

**Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert**  
**Special Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Sunday February 18, 2018**

**Attending:** Sarah Gonzales, President; Shirley LeMaster, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Roger Beaman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Marty Gronewald, Treasurer; Jane Zaun, Secretary; Bruce Elwood, Director at Large; Susan Hannon, Director at Large.

**UUCOD Members:** 40

**UUCOD Friends:** 10

1. Chalice Lighting:

Sarah Gonzales opened the meeting with lighting of the chalice and a reading of “The Long Haul People”.

2. Presentation by Labyrinth Community:

Vikki Porter of the Labyrinth Community guided a slideshow presentation including:

- ✚ History of the Labyrinth including an explanation of a Labyrinth, the progression of a Labyrinth for UUCOD from the 1990's to the present.
- ✚ How the Labyrinth is intended for UUCOD members and friends to visitors to the Coachella Valley.
- ✚ The Labyrinth Community envisions the Labyrinth as an asset to UUCOD. The Labyrinth will be a public space that may also be rented for community building, personal development, outdoor events, children's religious education and revenue opportunities for UUCOD.
- ✚ Site selection for the Labyrinth was done in 2015 in conjunction with the Facilities Committee. Site plan development was done with the cooperation of the Facilities Committee. Site plan was approved by Rancho Mirage in 2015 and 2017.
- ✚ The Labyrinth will be 60' in diameter with a 4" thick reinforced concrete slab located on the southeast corner of the UUCOD campus. The Labyrinth Community envisions a 50' diameter etching of the Chartres Labyrinth pattern. There are plans for simple concrete benches with legacy recognition opportunities.
- ✚ Cost and Timing: Bids are still being sought; however, the Labyrinth Community currently has one bid for \$49,900.
- ✚ Maintenance: Labyrinth Community volunteers will sweep the concrete as needed. In addition, the gardener committed to blow sand weekly as part of the current service.
- ✚ Resealing will need to be done approximately every 3-5 years at a cost of \$500.00 each time.

- ✚ There is a Labyrinth Legacy Fund with a 10 year maintenance endowment. Currently their funding is \$65,543 totally which will include bids for building the Labyrinth.

### 3. Discussion and Questions from the Board: Answers from Labyrinth Community and others as designated.

Board members posed questions including:

- How will legacy recognition opportunities be implemented for those community members who contributed large sums of money?

Answer: Sarah Gonzales reminded everyone there is a Naming Policy that will be followed for legacy recognition.

- Is the Labyrinth different from the drawings?

Answer: There is no difference from the drawings and the intended Labyrinth. The contractor who submitted the bid has specific education and experience in reinforced concrete.

- How will long term maintenance be completed?

Answer: Per the Labyrinth Community: Regarding long term maintenance, there will be ongoing fund raising to set aside funds for Labyrinth improvement and maintenance.

- Will there be an increase in insurance costs?

Answer: Marty Gronewald, Treasurer, informed everyone the current insurance states the Labyrinth may be used without an increase in insurance costs.

- Is it possible to remove graffiti?

Answer: In prior years when our UUCOD building sustained graffiti damage, the city of Rancho Mirage gave us the material to remove the graffiti and a member of the Church did the work to remove it.

- Can the “etching” on the Labyrinth sustain sand and wind damage?

Answer: Sealing of the Labyrinth will assist in preventing sand and wind damage.

### 4. Discussion and Questions from the Congregation: Answers from Labyrinth Community and others as designated.

- Will there be the possibility of Memorials?

Answer: Yes

- If there is a large earthquake, will the church insurance cover damage?

Answer: That is unknown. Marty Gronewald will explore an answer with the insurance company.

- If major damage is done will the insurance cover it?

Answer: Per the City of Rancho Mirage, there is no current presence of gang activity in this area. Marty Gronewald, Treasurer, added the value of the Labyrinth can be added to the value of the Church at minimal cost for additional insurance coverage.

- Is the 50' diameter of the Labyrinth wide enough for 2 people to pass each other on the path?

Answer: There is a Labyrinth Protocol for people who pass each other while on the path.

- From the architectural drawing it is unclear where the entrance to the labyrinth is located.

Answer: The entrance is located off the parking lot entrance to UUCOD from Key Largo. Following this presentation, there will be a guided walk to the Labyrinth location on the property.

- What about the possibility of "echo friendliness"?

Answer: The Labyrinth Community is exploring that possibility.

- What is the solution for the people who come to walk the Labyrinth and need to use restroom facilities when the Church may be closed or have only one administrator present?

Answer: Sarah Gonzales indicated it is up to the judgment of the administrator to open the doors for any unknown individual. The Labyrinth Community acknowledged the adjacent Rancho Mirage dog park has restrooms.

- Has anyone given thought to have a method where people who come to use the Labyrinth may make a donation to the Church?

Answer: That can be addressed.

- Does the \$49,900 bid cover the benches?

Answer: That is undetermined.

- Will there be electricity at the Labyrinth site?

Answer: That is undetermined.

- What about landscaping for the site?

Answer: All current palm trees will remain. There are plans for additional landscaping.

- Is there provision for lighting?

Answer: Not presently but we will continue to raise funds.

- What kind of legal documents are necessary?

Answer: Sarah Gonzales explained the Labyrinth Community has utilized UUCOD's 501 C3 Non-profit status. Their funds are restricted only for Labyrinth use. They intend to gift the Labyrinth to UUCOD.

- Who will maintain the Labyrinth and its grounds?

Answer: Facilities Committee of the Church since the Labyrinth Community is gifting it to the Church.

Two congregants expressed excitement about the Labyrinth with intentions to use it.

#### 5. Determine the Process to approve the construction of the Peach Labyrinth:

- Sarah gave out a short survey with 4 questions centering on a congregants desire to approve or disapprove building the Labyrinth, to advise (or not to advise) the Board of Directors to accept the gift of the Peace Labyrinth according to existing UUCOD bylaws and policies. There are additional opportunities to offer comments of hopes or concerns regarding the Labyrinth.

The Board will consider the survey results at a future Board meeting and determine the next step for the Labyrinth.

#### 6. Adjournment and extinguish the Chalice:

Sarah extinguished the Chalice and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jane Zaun  
Secretary

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2/18/18

Date