

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert
Board Meeting August 14, 2018
Minutes

Attending: Rev. Barbara, Minister; Sarah Gonzales, President; Vikki Porter, 1st Vice President; Nancy Boyce, Director at Large; Susan Hannon, Director at Large; Rod Belshee, Secretary-nominee.

Attending: (Phone Conference Call) Jerry L'Hommedieu, Treasurer; Jane Zaun, Secretary.

Guests: Congregational Members: Steve Boyce; Fred Bloss; Dan Spencer; Kevin Brandt; Bruce Elwood. Community Representative: Art Gardner, Essi Engineering.

1. Chalice Lighting:

Sarah called the meeting to order at 6:38pm. Rev. Barbara read a passage from the Living Tradition Hymnal as she lit the Chalice.

2. Special Presentation: Proposal From Essi Engineering.

a. Sarah introduced Art Garner from ESSI Engineering to discuss their proposal. Board members previously received a copy of the proposal from ESSI, which describes the request for an easement to share and slightly expand the UUCOD flood catchment basin, allow the La Paloma Homes development to increase the number of lots from 13 to 14, and provide income to UUCOD. This was the first review of the topic for many Board members and took the form of a Question and Answer session. The Board and members of the congregation asked questions and Art Gardner answered the questions.

Q: We have recently had 250-year and even 500-year floods. Since this design is for 100-year floods, what happens with bigger ones? A: The flood first fills the catchment basin within the La Paloma development, then overflows and fills our basin, then overflows and floods onto Key Largo and runs north to Dinah Shore, continue to flood streets in a NE direction.

Q: How does the water gets flow from the development to the UUCOD basin? Where is the pipe? Will construction undermine the labyrinth? A: There will be a settlement basin in the NE corner of the La Paloma Homes development, which will allow most (non-storm) rains to percolate into the soil. Storm water will be carried in a buried pipe to the UUCOD basin, with an easement just inside the sidewalk and under the driveway apron (cutting the eastern edge of the asphalt). No, the construction will have no affect on the labyrinth.

Q: We have kept the area around the basin natural, and support considerable wildlife on the property (native plants, iguanas, lizards, and the endangered Coachella Valley Milk vetch). Will they be

protected? A: Construction will be disruptive, but will include restoration. Construction will include irrigation, at least initially to reestablish plantings.

Q: How much bigger will the basin be? Will it affect future parking? Where will the excess dirt go? A: Approximately 25% large volume, mostly achieved through depth and with only a slight increase in footprint. It will not affect future parking as it is shown on UUCOD future plans. Dirt will distributed to the SW (uphill) portion of the development.

Q: Will the basin include riprap rock? A: Only at the discharge. The other sides are less than 5-in-12 slope, so do not require riprap, nor does the bottom of the basin. ESSI can also include a grading study and plan for the UUCOD future parking so future permitting would be easier.

Q: Could ESSI make our parking expansion part of their development, in lieu of the cash payment? A: Yes, we could look at that. The cost of the parking lot expansion might be considerably less if done as part of the La Paloma Homes development, since it just adds a little to work that which is already being done. We may get considerably more value than with a cash payment, but we would have to look at the other needs of the church to be sure that parking expansion is a higher priority than the other upcoming major expenses (roof, sanctuary chairs).

Q: Decision time frame? What if we change our mind later? A: The developers first met with us three weeks ago and are at a go / no-go point. We need to at least make a statement of intent and agree to negotiate in good faith. That is non-binding if unacceptable conditions present themselves.

Q: Construction timeframe? A: Planning and permitting may take 5-7 months, but construction of the basin and pipe would be just a week, and would be coordinated with UUCOD to minimize interference.

b. Discussion of ESSI proposal (after ESSI Representative departed) with Board Members and Congregational Members:

The Congregational members and Board discussed:

State laws including liability concerns regarding “run-off”, initial and annual assessment fees requested, that the agreement between ESSI/La Paloma Homes and UUCOD would include restoration of any disruption, the ESSI construction will not affect the Labyrinth, ESSI/La Paloma Homes agree to provide landscaping at and around the basin, how much the parking lot might cost us to develop vs. the cash offer, and if we want to prioritize the parking lot as our best use of the cash offer. Also discussed was that granting an easement is not a capital project, therefore, does not require congregational approval; however, as good practice, the Board should inform the congregation of the action taken.

The Board agreed a Letter of Intent will be drafted to ESSI on which the Board will vote.

3. Approval of the Minutes:

Minutes from 7/17/2018 Board Meeting were approved as written.

4. Reports:

a. President:

Sarah updated the Board on Roger Beaman's continuing work on the McCloud Trust that is still mired in legal issues. When completed, the funds from the Trust will be deposited in the MacLean Endowment Fund.

Sarah also reminded the Board about the Developmental Minister Start-Up Date of December 15th, 2018. There will be a morning meeting with UUA/PSWD staff, the UUCOD Board, and our Developmental Minister. This will be followed by an afternoon congregational meeting.

b. 1st Vice President:

Vikki Porter informed the Board that the next Church Council is scheduled for Saturday October 20, 2018 in the Community Room from 9:30-11:30AM. All Committee Chairs and Board Members are expected to attend.

c. 2nd Vice President:

There was no report from the 2nd VP.

d. Treasurer:

Jerry L'Hommedieu reported on the current financial status. He stated that AMS Tax Services reads our monthly transactions and prepares the financial statements. Activity on S2S2S and Labyrinth Funds are being separated to simplify interpretation of financial for the UUCOD operations. The Labyrinth and S2S2S Funds will be listed as Restricted Funds on the Statement of Financial Position. Jerry agreed to provide a separate Statement of Activity for the Labyrinth fund. He shared that AMS is finalizing a review of the FY 17-18 transactions; that report will be shared once they have concluded their work.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the Treasurer's Report.

e. Minister:

Rev. Barbara expressed her gratitude for the Sundaes Sunday! She thanked the Board and Congregation for her reception on Sunday!

She reported on generally positive feedback regarding the revised Order of Service. She is meeting with the Co-Chairs of the Worship Associate Comm. for follow up and revision if helpful. She and President Sarah met to determine the number of Sundays for which the ¾ time minister is responsible, as well as the time of year that have the most attendees. She has determined most of the Sundays that she will be in the pulpit for the 2018-2019 congregational year.

Rev. Barbara shared that Social Justice & Community folks have been working this summer with members of Insight Community of the Desert (ICD) and Fran Hoag and Rod Belshee on a six month- 7 session “White Awake” Curriculum. It will begin on Nov. 17 at ICD; we will be promoting this among our membership too. It is an opportunity to join with others in this important work.

Our Pastoral team is aware this is a difficult time in our country. To be responsible to our values and the quality of our community the team will offer a group process for those feeling troubled in these times. Rev. Barbara has been meeting with Bryna Blum, Chair of the Pastoral Committee, to pursue the groups.

Rev Barbara will be attending the UUA 5 day program for Interim & Developmental Ministry, August 20-24th, in Minneapolis and the UUMA SW Region Retreat in LA on Sept 24-26.

5. Current Business:

a. Attitude of Gratitude:

The Board sent gratitude cards to Marion Ellson, Barbara Storms, and Judy Mills.

b. AC Monitoring and Management:

Fred Bloss reported that with the congregational complaints of the new AC system’s functioning, he requested a technician from the AC Company inspect the system. The technician repaired a leak in the system. The Board discussed the possibility of installing a 2nd sensor in the Sanctuary to assist in regulating the temperature. At the present time both Fred and Steve Boyce report the AC temperature is set at a constant temperature of 74 degrees.

c. Approve Appointments of Board Officers:

It was moved, seconded, and passed to appoint Jane Zaun, 2nd VP, Stewardship, and Rod Belshee, Secretary.

d. Status of RE Coordinator Search:

Sarah reported the RE Search Committee consists of Ken Mill, Chair, Nancy Boyce, Board Representative and one member of the RE Committee. They report advertising for the position has begun.

e. Year End 2017-2018 Report:

Jerry stated the Year End report will be available when AMS Tax Services have completed their review, in about a week.

Sarah shared expenditures that need to be addressed now:

1. Dorian McWain, Music Director, has stated that in order for the piano to have a longer functioning duration, there needs to be a humidifier in the Sanctuary. Sarah said \$500.00 would meet the need and protect our asset. The Board approved by consensus.
2. Rev. Barbara needs printer in her office for privacy. Sarah recommended \$200 for the printer. The Board approved by consensus.
3. The Minister's Discretionary fund is currently depleted. Sarah stated the Fund needs \$500 to begin the year. The Board approved by consensus.

There was discussion of possible Share-the-Plate months in October or December to refill the account. The Board will ask Social Justice Committee to provide viable recommendations to the Board for Share-the-Plate for the remainder of the year.

f. Payment of UUA/PWR Dues for 2018-2019

Jerry L'Hommedieu reported we received a letter from UUA outlining a new method of paying dues to UUA and PWR. Amount of dues remain at \$60 for National UUA and \$28 for PWR per member. Their records indicated we have a total of 122 members; our accurate number of members is 119. Sarah verified that the count has been verified to match signed rolls and those who have either made pledges or written exemptions. Jerry recommended we make 10 monthly payments. There was a consensus of Board members to approve Jerry prorated the amount to the correct number of members and make monthly payments.

8. New Business:

a. Planning for Church Council and Board:

The Board discussed utilizing the Church Council to develop congregational leadership. Sarah recommended the book "Leadership as a Spiritual Experience" be given to each Committee Chair and the Board. She will order 22, one for each Committee Chair, and 7 for the Board.

b. Appoint Communication Committee:

By consensus the Board agreed to appoint a Communication Committee as a Committee of the Board. Rev. Barbara will chair the committee with Susan Hannon, Board member, Diane Carmony, congregational member, and Vikki Porter, Board Advisor. Sarah indicated she will request another specific congregational member to join in the fall.

c. ESSI La Paloma Homes Letter of Intent:

Kevin Brandt presented a Letter of Intent for the Board. Vikki moved, Susan seconded, and the Board approved the motion to adopt the Letter of Intent. ESSI will be notified by phone and Sarah will forward the letter.

d. The Butterfly Project:

Kevin Brandt updated the Board on the Worship Committee plans for a Sunday service on November 1 around The Butterfly Project that honors with a painted butterfly every child killed in the Holocaust.

The Chalice was extinguished.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

The Board entered Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Zaun
Secretary

Date