

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert
Board of Directors Regular Meeting, March 16, 2021
Minutes

Attending:

BOD Attending by Zoom Meeting: President Jane Zaun, 1st Vice President Carol Lavoie, 2nd Vice President Linda Savard, Treasurer Jerry L’Hommedieu, Secretary Rod Belshee, Director-at-Large Bob Rancourt, and Minister Reverend Barbara Fast.

BOD Absent: Director-at-Large Mack Rogers

Congregational Members by Zoom Meeting: Hiroshi Yamaguchi, Chris Eager, Sarita Gonzales, Barbara Storms

Meeting minutes:

1. Opening and Chalice Lighting:

Jane called the regular Board Meeting to order at 5:02 pm PST by Zoom Meeting. Jane led a reading while she lit the chalice.

2. Check-in:

3. Approval of the Minutes:

The Board approved a motion to accept the minutes as written for the February 16, 2021 regular meeting of the Board.

The Board approved a motion to accept the minutes as written for the March 12, 2021 special meeting of the Board.

4. Time-keeper and Process-observer: Carol Lavoie

5. Voices of the Congregation:

No topic raised – congregants are attending for discussions included in the Agenda.

6. Reports:

a. President Jane Zaun:

Jane submitted a written report. There was no further discussion in the meeting.

b. 1st Vice President Carol Lavoie:

Carol submitted a written report. There was no further discussion in the meeting.

c. 2nd Vice President Linda Savard:

Linda submitted a written report. She added that she attended the Pacific Western Region Love Right Through It, which discussed the future of the Region Camps and Covenant Communities.

d. Treasurer Jerry L'Hommedieu:

Jerry submitted a written report regarding our financial position and notable financial events.

In the meeting he added that on March 2 the \$20,235 Payroll Protection Program Loan/Grant arrived, which will go into reserves (to be spent 75% payroll, 25% utilities and mortgage), and that he received the unrestricted Spirit grant of \$4,400 on March 13.

e. Director-at-Large Bob Rancourt:

Bob submitted a written report. In the meeting he added that the Choir is doing really well.

f. Director-at-Large Mack Rogers:

Mack submitted a written report.

g. Minister Reverend Barbara Fast:

Reverend Barbara submitted a written report.

In the meeting, she noted that the Social Justice Committee wants to continue Share-the-Plate during the summer. The Board approved by consensus.

She also noted that nominations for Share-the-Plate recipients are open, and not many have been received yet. She also discussed the Mama Gloria movie event, as a fundraiser for Safe Schools. The Board approved the Mama Gloria event by consensus.

h. Assistant Minister Reverend Ian Riddell: (attends quarterly: Nov, Feb, May, Aug)

Reverend Ian submitted a written report. Jane pointed out a change in the time for his second class, Listening Skills.

7. Old Business:

a. Attitude of Gratitude, Mack

Cards for Gratitude were sent from the entire Board:

- Gratitude for your creativity, diligence, time, and commitment to the Production Team in initiating and maintaining robust Worship Services every Sunday during our COVID year. We honor you! **Vikki Porter, Michael Allen, Jack Fitzsimmons, Sandy Sladen, Margaret Manson, Jonathan Fast, Bryna Blum**
- **Marion Ellison**, for suggesting and organizing the new travel discussions that are now being shown as part of Stewardship's "Let's Get Together" series.
- **Steve Kerr**, for getting the irrigation controller, wiring and valves running
- **Hiroshi Yamaguchi**, for hand watering our grounds to produce flowers for our Desert Iguanas.

b. Pledge Drive Report, Sarita and Chris

Pledges have been received of \$172,690 against a goal of \$185,000 (93%). In the FY20-21 there was considerable shrinkage of pledges due to the economic impact of Covid, and Chris expects there to be less shrinkage in FY 21-22 since there is less economic uncertainty, suggesting that the actual received revenue for FY 21-22 may be very similar to FY 21-22.

The Finance Committee is looking at options to increase funding. Ideas include retiring or refinancing the mortgage, a matching challenge, or other fundraisers. The goal is still \$185k but it will come from other income not pledges.

c. FY21-22 Draft Budget Review, Jerry and Sarita

The Finance Committee is not comfortable with the \$25,000 deficit in the current draft budget. Expenses are projected higher than projected revenues, partially offset by carry over from FY 20-21 (largely due to one-time grants related to Covid relief). Total revenue is very similar to last year (once \$10K Share-the-Plate and \$15K retained from FY20-21 are eliminated).

Many line items are fixed, some are variable, and a few are new (including 100% full-time ministry, replacing the office laptop, and potential bookkeeping services if no one volunteers.) Discussion included budget lines for guest ministers and music. The budget proposes a Choir Director rather than a Music Director.

Applying the \$15K carry-over from FY 20-21 leaves a deficit of approximately \$11K. Each year we tend to over achieve against our revenue projections (our budgets are conservative) so it is quite possible that that budget deficit would not be realized.

d. Approve COVID Phase 2 Re-entry Protocol Revision, Rod and Hiroshi

The Board approved a motion to accept the Outdoor Phase 2 Protocols as proposed, and to tie entry into Phase 2 to Riverside County entering the Red Tier designation.

The Board discussed guidelines for future indoor activities, to give direction to the trio of volunteers to propose specific protocols and criteria so that they can make a specific proposal for approval in April.

e. Facilities Update, Rod

Rod submitted a written report. In the meeting, Rod highlighted a few areas.

Patio Project. A number of people have restarted discussions of the Patio Plaza Project. There is visible excitement and this could be a great healing process after a year of Covid. The project, part of Sacred Grounds, would be self-funded. It may entail enlarging the patio, adding shading and benches, a water feature, misters, creation of a Garden of Hope and path down to Via Vail, and a Celebration Garden will commemorative pavers around Gene's art closest to the building. The grassroots group would create designs, get bids, and raise funds and then bring it to a Special Congregational Business Meeting for approval.

Irrigation system. Rod reviewed the horrible condition of the irrigation system (most emitters have failed, and half of the circuits didn't even work at all). There are efforts to partially repair it, to at least protect trees, eliminate leaks and provide some vegetation for the Desert Iguanas.

AV System. With the delayed AV grant, purchase and installation of the new equipment will occur over the summer. Allowing time for the team to work with the gear and get comfortable before going live, it may be Fall before we can invite congregants to join in-person services in the Sanctuary.

8. New Business

a. Approve New Nominating Committee Member, Jane

In July, Jane will replace Joni (who agreed to serve out Sarita's term) on the Nominating Committee, as the ex-President. Randy's term will expire. The Board approved a motion to nominate Carol Lavoie for Randy's position, for approval at the annual Congregational Business Meeting in May.

b. Approve Revised Administrator Job Description, Jane

The Board passed a motion to approve the Administrator Job Description, as amended to add Bookkeeping skills. Discussed included the number of hours per week.

c. PSWD Annual Business Meeting

The UUA Pacific Southwest District Business meeting will be April 17 morning, and will discuss implications of disbanding the Districts within the Pacific Southern Region. Linda and Jane will attend as voting delegates (we are allowed up to four voting delegates).

d. Approve Hiring Policy and Procedures

The Board approved the Hiring Policy and Procedures as amended. Discussion included the background check process with Church Mutual.

e. Online Streaming Retention for Copyright Materials, Rod

The Board approved a motion to provide direction to the Worship and Production teams that full services need to be retained no more than 30 days, or less depending on copyright release agreements.

Discussion included longer-term retention of the sermons directed at Outreach, which would need specific copyright releases and a different approach to provide searchable titles and descriptions, short video segments, and playlists.

9. Adjournment of Regular Board Meeting

Jane adjourned the regular Board meeting.

10. Executive Session

The Board met in Executive Session.

11. Extinguish Chalice and Adjournment

Jane extinguished the chalice with a reading at 7:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rod Belshee

_____, 2021
Date Approved

Addendum to Board of Directors Meeting Written Reports of Board Members and Committee Chairs

Attachments

Written Reports of Board Members and Minister

- a) President Jane Zaun's written report
- b) 1st Vice President Carol Lavoie's written report
- c) 2nd Vice President Linda Savard's written report
- d) Treasurer Jerry L'Hommedieu written report
- e) Director at Large Bob Rancourt's written report
- f) Director at Large Mack Roger's written report
- g) Minister Reverend Barbara Fast written report
- h) Assistant Minister Reverend Ian W. Riddell's written report

Written reports of Committee Chairs

- a) Facilities Committees

a. President Jane Zaun's written report:

The 2nd Pacific Western Region California Board President's Meeting was on 3/10/21 with 9 Presidents from UU Churches in mid and Southern California. The Regional staff intend to continue these meetings monthly for support and networking.

DIBM (Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Ministry) meets monthly to assess, recommend, and begin implementation for aspects of Widening the Circle at UUCOD. DIBM and Board Covenanting is scheduled for March 3/22 @ 1:00—3:00pm with Rev. Summer Albayati as our facilitator. Additional information is coming related to a DIBM request to Board for policy development.

As everyone is aware, our Administrator resigned for a full-time position. A task force met to revise the job description. The revised job description has been approved by our Personnel Chair, Walter Gendell, and is on the agenda for Board approval. In addition, Walter has created a Hiring Policy and Procedures that is on the Board Agenda for approval.

I am grateful to Linda Savard, Fran Hoag, Barbara Storms, Jerry L'Hommedieu, and Sarita Gonzales for helping with the Constant Contact Newsletters.

I attended the UUA National Conference, New Day Rising with opportunities to watch videos pre-seminar day to hear what other Churches across the US are doing to address diversity, inclusion and belonging plus anti-racist work in their communities. During the seminar day I attended a session on how without careful attention Covenants can sustain white supremacy. Another session "There's an Elephant in the Room" was on having difficult conversations around micro-aggressions.

I participate in an interim Communication planning Task Group. We are increasingly aware of larger communication issues for the Church. We have decided to begin by revising the current Communication Policy.

Other:

I meet with the Stewardship Committee Monthly.
Meeting with COVID19 Team weekly.
Member of a Chalice Circle and a personal Widening the Circle Study Group.

b. 1st Vice President Carol Lavoie's written report:

Life Span Spiritual Growth

- Spring class enrollment underway.
5 new offerings:
 - ~Discussion of book This is How it Always is led by Peter Mathews.
 - ~UUA Common Read discussion of book Breathe: A Letter to My Son led by Fran Hoag.
 - ~Can You Hear Me Now? & Boundaries both led by Rev. Ian.
 - ~ Viewing and discussion of film *Mama Gloria*. Film director will
Join in the discussion. Tickets for purchase with proceeds
going to a local non-profit. Rev. B , Fran Hoag and Gloria Kapp
organizing.
- On-going 'drop-in' opportunities: Meditation with Rev. B and Coffee & Conversation with Peter M.
- Planning underway for classes for fall and winter. Focus will be on aging and diversity.

BINGO ADVISOR

Connecting with UU Congregation in Escondito advising on holding a zoom Bingo event.
Connection made by Rev. Ian.

TIME KEEPER

Continue as Time Keeper for Board meetings until July.

c. 2nd Vice President Linda Savard's written report:

Stewardship Committee –

Highlights:

- Closed out the pledge drive with the game Tell 2 truths and 1 lie about yourself. Had about 15 participants and had a great time
- Let's Get Together sponsored a "Travel Log" with Peter and Hiroshi. People enjoyed it very much.
- Discussed how we are doing with our new member contacts.
- Had an update on how the pledge drive is progressing

Care Team

- No committee meeting this month, but there are two trainings planned for Care Members and congregants on listening and boundaries

Additional

- Attended weekly Covid-19 response team meetings.
- Met with interim communication procedure team. Have narrowed our focus to working on the communication policy.
- Member of a "Widening the Circle of Concern" study group.
- Continuing with Chalice Circle involvement
- Assisted with revising the Church Administrator Job description.
- Attended New Day Rising UUA Conference.
- Produced video for Sunday Service on why I contribute to the church

d. Treasurer Jerry L'Hommedieu written report:

As of February 28th, the church held cash assets of \$261,980.18 in its bank accounts. Reserve and restricted funds totaled \$180,124.35, leaving a balance of \$81,855.83 in unrestricted funds. We received \$4,900 in pledge payments for the next fiscal year and we were able to provide a check to Planned Parenthood for \$660.00 as part of February's Share the Plate collections. With revenues of \$10,923 and expenses of \$13,631, we ran a deficit of \$2,708 for the month.

We were advised by the Spirit Level Foundation that we should expect funding from an unrestricted grant in the amount of \$4,327 by the end of March and our forgivable loan through the SBA's Payroll Protection Program for \$20,235 was approved and funding was received on March 2.

The working budget as reflected on the Actual vs. Budget report has been updated to reflect projected changes. Revenues, including Contributions of Record, Retailer Rebates, and Miscellaneous Operational Income, have all been increased. On the expense side, the 5083 Telephone/Internet budget has been increased by \$8,500 to support the expense of installing new internet and phone cabling. There is no increase to budget as we decreased the 5042 Capital Repairs budget by \$5,000 and the 5060 General Repairs budget by \$3,500. This infrastructure project will allow us to stream live services upon returning to the sanctuary.

Our administrator, Andrea Duran, left our employment as of February 26 and we will begin a search for her replacement shortly. The Board voted to upgrade the position which will result in additional hours per week and an increased hourly rate. Depending on when we identify a replacement, this may or may not impact this year's budget.

Projections for this year's pledge drive suggest a final tally around \$175,000. We'll soon have all the information needed to complete a proposed FY 21-22 budget.

e. Director at Large Bob Rancourt's written report:

Summary

- Church remains closed to the public due to the Coronavirus Pandemic
 - Virtual services continue
- Committees continue to meet and act
 - This Director attended two meetings to date this month and is scheduled to attend three more this month, including this Board of Directors meeting
- This Director directly participates in the Streaming Services and Copyright Committee, the UUCOD Choir, and the Worship Committee
 - Updates provided within

This Director continues to attend and participate in the various committees and groups. This Director serves as a member of the Streaming Services and Copyright Committee, the UUCOD Choir, and the Worship Committee. This Director participated in a special Executive Session Board meeting on March 1 in which we learned that Reverend Fast is retiring.

Streaming Services and Copyright Committee

The Committee drafted an online worship services and copyrighted materials use policy that was presented to the Board. This Director drafted a form release for future use in online worship services,

which was revised in Committee and approved by the Board at its last meeting.

UUCOD Choir

- Meeting, March 10
- Meeting, March 24

The Choir is meeting but is on hiatus. The Choir is now regularly meeting and preparing virtual hymns, led by Jonathan Fast, which appear regularly in virtual services.

Worship Committee

- Meeting, March 23

The Worship Committee regularly communicates via e-mail. Winter and many spring virtual services have been assigned and scheduled, and others are still being planned. This Director is not scheduled to serve as Worship Associate again until April. The Committee continues to recruit for other possible virtual Worship Associates, so referrals are encouraged and welcomed.

f. Director at Large Mack Roger's written report:

Attitude of Gratitude: Notecards sent (from "entire board")

Gratitude from the Board for your creativity, diligence, time, and commitment to the Production Team in initiating and maintaining robust Worship Services every Sunday during our COVID year. We honor you! **Vikki Porter, Michael Allen, Jack Fitzsimmons, Sandy Sladen, Margaret Manson, Jonathan Fast, Bryna Blum**

Marion Ellison, for suggesting and organizing the new travel discussions that are now being shown as part of Stewardship's "Let's Get Together" series.

Steve Kerr, for getting the irrigation controller, wiring and valves running

Hiroshi Yamaguchi, for hand watering our grounds to produce flowers for the iquanas.

Social Justice Committee:

We met on Thursday, March 11th and discussed our upcoming Share the Plate recipients, The new Climate & Environmental Justice Committee, and Mack gave the background of the Salton Sea, and it's environmental impact on communities within the vicinity.

Climate and Environmental Justice Committee

I am also head of a new committee: Climate & Environmental Justice. We will meet on the fourth Monday of the month at 9:30 in the morning. Denise Janssen Eager, Chris Eager, Carol McDaniel, Barb Ketay, and Rev Barbara have already indicated they will be on the team. I plan to contact UUCOD “friends” to also join our group from the greater climate activism community. We are looking for more members to join us! An informational ad for our meeting will be in Friday’s newsletter

We will plan some educational opportunities for the congregation that will demonstrate the extent of the complex problems we face locally with environmental ground, water, and air pollution and the sociological damage it does to our CV frontline communities.

Men’s First Friday Breakfast

The recent Men’s Breakfast, with the new time: (9AM) and recommended topics went pretty well. We had 7 in attendance. I explained to them the history of why we are a “church”, rather than a “fellowship”. Also, we tabled our discussion about meeting at an outside venue for a REAL BREAKFAST until the Board and those working the Covid protocols, give us the okay. They threw out a couple restaurants that are near the church, that serve breakfast outside and we will be looking at those when we are beyond the purple tier.

Pledge steward

I finished contacting everyone I was assigned, and two will be contacted by Jerry, as I’ve had no response to telephone calls and emails.

Chalice Circle

I am staying involved in my Chalice Circle meetings in Palm Springs. Michael Smith is our leader. A great group of people!! Next meeting is March 24th

g. Minister Reverend Barbara Fast’s written report:

I appreciate all you are doing to keep the UUCOD “boat” steady in this time of transition. I will continue to work to make this a good goodbye for UUCOD.

WORSHIP: I want again to offer tremendous gratitude for all the time and talents of volunteers. March 28 will be offer a Sunday “off” for the tech team and the link to a UUA service will be available.

February/March Worship

- Feb 21- Sacred the Body Pt 1 (Share-the-Plate Planned Parenthood) & New Member Reception - Rev Barbara, Sarita Gonzales, Jane Betts-Stover, Sheryl Eaton & Membership Team and Choir
- Feb 28- Sacred the Body Pt 2- Rev Barbara & Derek Moore

March 7* Easing Into infinity/ Setting the Boat Pt. 2 Rev Barbara & Bryna Blum
 March 14- Comfort and Change Rev Ian & Joni Paddock
 March 21 - What Does Your Spirit Magnify? Rev Barbara , Hiroshi Yamaguchi and Peter Mathews
 & Share-the-Plate FIND food bank, Ros Hoover
 March 28 - UUA Stewardship Service
 April 4 - Easter & Passover Rev Barbara & Betty Bender
 April 11- Covenant and Community Rev Ian & Sarita Gonzales
 April 18 Vol. Appreciation, Flower Communion, Rev Barbara & Bob Rancourt STP -Coachella
 Valley Volunteers in Medicine- Bryna Blum

Committee meetings Attended:

COM

The COM is reworking the Disruptive Behavior Policy.

Worship:

Worship has invited DIBM Rep to come and offer guidance for worship experience.

Membership:

Video of New Members for Induction at the Service on 2/21/21. Membership is planing to explore how to becoming more Inclusive and welcoming with a rep. from DIBM for input/guidance.

Chalice Circle Facilitators

Chalice Circle are going well and there was productive discussion that offered tools for dealing with possible uncomfortable group situations.

Lifespan & Social Justice

I am to leading Five- BYOT 2 sessions February & March

I continue to lead a weekly Metta Meditation session.

I am working with Fran Hoag (Tech) and Gloria Kapp (Community Outreach) to produce a streaming showing of Mama Gloria on May 22nd to be followed by discussion with Mama Gloria and the Director/Producer Luchina Fisher as a Fundraiser for Safe Schools.

Social Justice would like to propose that they continue STP year round and will seek BOD approval.

Community: See Mama Gloria above.

Published the 2nd of four yearly Columns in Desert Sun, Words of Faith, on 2 26 21.

Invited to be on a Climate Concerns Panel on April 9 with Interfaith group in the Mid Valley.

g. Minister Reverend Ian W Riddell's written report:

attends quarterly: November, February, May, and August.

● **Care Team**

- The Care Team and I postponed our monthly meeting in March to give space for the listening workshop later in the month.
- We continue to check in and share our contacts with congregants and offer each other guidance and support in our support of congregants' needs.
- We are holding two trainings in the coming months.
 - Saturday, March 27, 9:30am-12:30pm **"Can You Hear Me Now? Listening Skills in Community"**
 - How do we act as compassionate listeners with open hearts? How do we elicit sharing appropriately? How do we provide a loving presence in crisis and every day? Join Rev. Ian as we explore these questions and build some skills. Care Team members and all congregants are invited to this Zoom workshop.
 - Saturday, April 17, 1:00pm-4:00pm (note new time) **"Boundaries in Community"**
 - How do we maintain proper and appropriate boundaries when providing care? Where are our limits in terms of our expertise and expectations? How do we assess the appropriateness of levels of care? How do we practice self care, so that our priorities are others' needs? Join Rev. Ian as we explore these questions and build some skills. Care Team members and all congregants are invited to this Zoom workshop.
- In April we will return to the task of updating the congregation's "Emergency Contact Forms." We will be reaching out to the Board and to the Membership committee to determine the best way to make this happen efficiently and meaningfully.
- Margaret Beaman continues to work on creating neighborhood maps to aid in connection and communion

● **Pastoral Care**

- I have continued to meet with individual congregants and couples by phone and Zoom.

● **Worship**

- I lead worship service with Joni Paddock on March 14 “Covenant and Change”
- Study and Teaching
 - I am reading Emotional Agility by Susan David and rereading the UUA’s Widening the Circle.
 - Along with several congregants, I participated in the UUA’s New Day Rising workshop on February 27 and participated in the follow-up/ debrief conversation on Sunday, March 7.
 - I have signed up for the second session of Beloved Conversations which begins this week and runs through June
- I meet weekly with Rev. Barbara
- I continue to sing with the choir (not part of my 1/5 time as AM)
- I continue to preach at other congregations: On February 28, I preached at my “home” congregation, James Reeb UU Congregation in Madison, Wisconsin. I served Reeb as it’s Director of Music Ministries before seminary and they are the congregation that ordained me. It was delightful to be back with them.

Written Reports of Committee Chairs:

a. Facilities Committee Chair Rod Belshee’s written report:

Covid Protocols *(See separate topic in Board Meeting)*

- a) We propose that the updated Outdoor Phase 2 Protocols be adopted, and entry to Phase 2 be tied to Riverside County entering the Red Tier.
- b) We want general guidance from the Board now to aid in drafting Indoor Phase 1 Protocols and Criteria to present at the April Board Meeting.

Spectrum Internet / Phone

- a) Trenching is complete and the connection box is now installed against the building, ready for Spectrum to install the cable modem and turn the service on.

HVAC Service

- a) Desert Air completed the 6 month routine service, and found no issues.

ICD rental and Community Room space

- a) Insight Community of the Desert completed move-in on February 28.

- b) About half of the Community Room is open space, enough to place the tables for Committee Meetings or such as the time arises.

Art donation

- a) Gene's latest art was installed to the north of the community room patio on February 17th. This might be the beginning of a Garden of Hope with a butterfly garden and a winding path down to Via Vale.
- b) The art has been very well received, including being featured in the March 7 Sunday Service.

AV Project

- The AV grant approval process moved from January to April, a three month delay.
 - To partially mitigate the three month delay and start installation and programming, we will buy some lower-cost items ahead of grant approval, such as the network switch and rack. This also allows us to terminate our WiFyBy internet service.
- Since the last Facilities meeting, bids for the electrical contractor, networking gear and rack have been finalized and we continue to track to budget.
- Graphics card
 - GPUs are in short supply worldwide. We are seeking to borrowing an Nvidia card in the meantime – anyone know a gamer who recently upgraded a system and might have a spare Nvidia graphic card?
- Cabling
 - Steve has traced and labeled every data wire in the building (!) in preparation for the AV installation. That was a big push-up and will be very helpful. He also traced the conduit routing from the audio closet into the sanctuary ceiling, including discovering a sheet metal enclosure on the roof bridging the two areas.
 - We now have a detailed wiring plan, in some cases with redundancy (e.g. the ability to pass video over both conventional AV cable and Ethernet).
 - We will go ahead and start the wiring, ahead of approval of the grant.
- Screens
 - There is a choice to make on the TV screens: highest quality (77" OLED) or larger screens (85"/86"). We taped up a facsimile of the 77" screen size for the OLED TV and had people comment. The consensus was to go with the larger screen.
 - 2020 TVs are now on closeout, with 2021 models to arrive in a couple of months. We could save money buying now.

Grounds

- a) The grounds are extremely dry. We have had less than an inch of rain since last summer and many perennials are suffering (and there are no annuals).

- b) We lost many dozens of brittlebush (encelia) and other bushes this summer. It is also unclear which trees are receiving any water, and that may be contributing to the disease in the Palo Verde.
- c) Hiroshi bought two 100' hoses and a portable hose reel/cart and will water by hand for now. This enables a very nice practice for anyone wanting to come and water.
- d) There are few weeds, thanks to both volunteer weeders and the scant rains, though they are now starting up.
- e) We will leave the dead bushes as habitat (and replace them over time).

Irrigation

- a) Whole sections of the grounds are receiving no water
 - 1. Several of us spent many days figuring out the irrigation system so that we can perhaps repair portions of it. It is quite a discouraging mess.
 - 2. Our initial focus was providing creosote blooms for the iguanas, and keeping our fifty palo verde trees alive. But with so much of the system failing it was impossible to even figure out which circuits to focus on.
- b) This is a major project
 - 1. Controller, wiring and valves
 - 1. There are eleven valves
 - 1. Four valves near the IID box on Via Vail, three valves across the driveway from the labyrinth, four valves behind the church.
 - 2. There are ten circuits
 - 1. The circuit for one of the eleven valves (behind the church) is stubbed out just past the valve
 - 3. Controller
 - 1. The controller only had terminals to support seven valves (we added another 6-module to provide up to 13)
 - 4. Condition of valves
 - 1. five were operational, six non-functional (all are now repaired)
 - 2. two were leaking (repaired)
 - 3. three were disconnected from the controller (repaired)
 - 4. one valve had no control wire (trenched and new wire installed)
 - 5. two were shorted out (repaired)
 - 2. Circuits and Programming
 - 1. Previous efforts to map out the circuits were frustrated by the failure of valves for the majority of zones so seemingly nothing worked.
 - 2. The programming of the circuits is currently the same for all circuits, regardless if they feed palm trees or Encelia, and regardless of whether they control ½" sprinkler heads or slow drip emitters. It has likely been this way for years.

3. We have started to map out the circuits, with rough ranges for seven of the ten circuits.
 3. Emitters
 1. The condition of the emitters is poor. Only three circuits have more than half of the emitters working and some circuit have very few emitters working. Some emitters barely dribble, others squirt up in the air or sideways, and many are clogged. Some leak underground.
 2. Emitters on two of the four circuits serving Palo Verdes and Palm Trees have been inspected. Most of the emitters on those two circuits are now repaired with a few still having red flags (fail/flood/frozen).
 4. Priorities
 1. 1. Trees. 2. Eliminate wasted water. 3. Flowers for Iguanas
 5. Next Steps
 1. Continue to repair the emitters on the four circuits that serve the Palo Verde and Palm Trees.
 2. Identify and repair leakers.
 3. Program the circuits based on the vegetation type and irrigation head type.
 4. ...
 5. We may still leave the majority of the circuits with failed emitters. The blueprints indicate that there may be about a thousand emitters on the grounds.
- c) FY21-22 Irrigation Budget – unknown.
1. We doubled the number of live circuits from five to ten (100% increase).
 2. Repairing the two leaking valves should reduce reduce water (unknown decrease), as will repairing leaking emitters.
 3. We will reprogram the circuits (some up, some down).
 4. We will repair emitters for the iguana and tree circuits (unknown increase).
 5. How does all of this add up?
 6. As we get more circuits in shape, we can start tracking water use to predict next year’s budget.