

TVUUC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 8, 2014

Members Present:

Chloie Airoidi-Watters
Kate Benson
Chris Buice
Heather Finney

Mary Jo Holden
Lance McCold
Ken Moffett
Alan Moore

Tom O'Connor
Linda Randolph
Dick Trowbridge

Members Absent:

Ada Falls
Lamar Gibson

John Mashburn
Maureen McBride

Guests Present:

Kathy Bohstedt
Marco Castaneda

Laurie Knox
Cindy Moffett

1. Opening Words

- Alan Moore called the meeting to order at 11:50 AM.
- Alan presented opening words.
- A couple of items were addressed out of this order but are recorded in the order of the agenda.

2. Check-in

- Members were asked about their plans for the summer.

3. Approval of Minutes from May Meeting

- **Minutes for the Board meeting of May 18, 2014 were approved as submitted by the Secretary.**

4. Additions-changes to Agenda

- Discussion and action on the Environmental Committee issue, represented by Dick Trowbridge and distributed via email to board members, was added to the agenda. The issue is whether to sign a petition by Knoxville organizations that we support recent EPA recommendations for curbing coal plant emissions and a weatherization initiative by the City of Knoxville. **Upon discussion, the action was approved.**
- Lance McCold raised the question of how to proceed with similar issues of concern to the church when access to the issues are not available as in this case.

5. Consent agenda

- No action was taken.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

6. Finance report

- Heather Finney noted that the report is not finalized, but that finances are on track.
- She described an accounting mishap from many years ago in which two pledges from one pledging unit were applied to one year. Correcting that mistake will mean a \$6000 shortfall this year, although it looks like the budget will come in balanced for this year, nevertheless.

7. BMOD sign up

- Sign-up for future services continued. Kathy Bohstedt suggested that a wider range of church leaders be asked to serve this role in order to become better known by the congregation.

- It was agreed that the expectation, though not the requirement, of participation by all Board members should remain.

8. Stewardship Committee Rising Chair

- Alan Moore announced that Jodie Hamilton has volunteered for a second term at this post. **A vote to approve was made, seconded and carried.**

9. Leadership Development Funds

- Alan explained that there are needs for two types of such funds: Program Council training, and institutional development such as programs at the Mountain, SUULE, a diversity workshop, and General Assembly.
- It was agreed that the PC will make its own decisions, while the Executive Team will deal with the other funding priorities.
- Linda noted that funding is needed for PC work.

10. Vision Task force update

- This group will meet after the service on 6/29; there would be one or two further meetings.
- The group will have 10 or 11 members; Kathy, Linda and Lance will attend from the Board.
- The group's mission is to write a TVUUC Vision Statement, to be ready in a month or two.

11. Update of Strategic (Long Range) Plan

- Alan noted that the present plan is outdated; a new one is needed every five years or so.
- Tom O'Connor stated his availability to work on the plan.

12. Rezoning request for support

- The Sequoyah Hills-Kingston Pike Homeowners Association asked TVUUC to add its name to a petition opposing rezoning of a house on Kingston Pike property to permit multi-unit development. The main issue is traffic safety.
- Discussion points included:
 - We have no expertise in safety and it's not our job.
 - But we should have a stake in neighborhood issues.
- **A motion to sign the petition was made, seconded and carried.**

13. Board Orientation

- Linda will set up meetings with new Board members: a 7/20 meeting, a workshop including PC members in August, and possibly another August meeting on governance.

14. Worship Service Changes- update

- A report has been made available of the results of the survey concerning the issue of whether or not to continue with two services.
- Chris Buice noted a committee recommendation that two services remain, but with changes, permitting a shorter, quieter, more meditative first service.
- The staff recommends services at 9:30 and 11:00, with Personal Beliefs & Commitments and Forums concurrent at those times.
- Choir and other music plans remain to be finalized.
- The order of service would be the same for both services, but interpreted differently in order for the early service to be up to 15 minutes shorter.
- A 30 to 45 minute gap would separate the services. Re concerns about traffic congestion during that time, it was noted that the availability and use of two ways out of the property should be emphasized .
- RE would be offered during both services.
- Lance recommended advising the congregation asap of these recommendations, debate being likely.
- Chris emphasized that it is thus far a proposal, not a final decision, pending discussion with dialogue and personal commitments and beliefs groups.
- It was also emphasized that a final decision needs to be made soon so that the appropriate church entities can make plans.

Added to the Agenda: Evaluation of Senior Minister

- Linda had distributed a summary of the Senior Minister Evaluation Report.
- Also received by the Board were Rev. Buice's Self-Evaluation for 2014, and the Executive Report to the Board for June 2014.
- There was pertinent discussion noted below concerning issues of "second hand information."

15. Discussion of this year's work- what went well, what could be improve on

- Alan had distributed a number of points for discussion, to focus on the Board's performance in implementing policy-based governance. Extensive discussion included:
- Achieving goals and tasks is much more efficient than in the past. Examples cited were renovating the library (an example of how slow we used to be), achieving the two recent staff hires, and renovating the front office.
- Gray areas remain, examples being where does one go to ask which kinds of questions, and a need for more communication within the Board. In this regard, Tom's suggestions regarding more integrated online information were cited as a direction deserving attention. It was noted that there is new PC information on the website. Tom noted that each member now maintains their own individual board membership lists, leading to errors in distribution.
- The Phoenix AZ church's current annual report, posted by Tom, was praised, but a general feeling was expressed that the annual report approach requires a huge and perhaps undue effort.

- It was noted that Chris' executive report made some good points as for what has and hasn't gone well. A point regarding the dangers of "second hand information" led to Chris' comment on current turmoil at Starr King seminary, where confidential information concerning a presidential search became widely known, leading to anger and suspicion.
- Tom expressed a desire for financial information (and other information) to be in the form of an ongoing historical record available for download as opposed to paper distribution at meetings, and a willingness to help with such an effort.
- Kate expressed a wish for more objective goals on the part of the Board itself.
- It was noted that policy-based governance has come far, especially with regard to monitoring and monitoring reports, but that the Board should perhaps be more challenging in its reviews of the reports. Chris suggested further refinement and reduction of duplication in the monitoring reports and their distribution. Linda suggested more care and discussion, possibly including an action item format.
- Lance suggested the Board should receive reports further in advance of meetings, possibly two weeks for reports and one month notice of the next meeting's principal agenda items.
- As one means of improved communication, Linda suggested that the Leadership Team should submit bullet-point lists of its action items and decisions to the Board.
- There was a discussion of how to better communicate with the congregation re activities and decisions by the Board, the ET and the LT. Comments included "People don't listen;" "Need to keep telling;" "Need audience awareness, avoiding the 'royal we.'" Chris noted there are two audiences: the board and similar leaders interested in policy, and the general member who is more interested in spiritual support.

16. Announcements – special dates

- Special dates were noted on the agenda.

17. Likes and what could we improve on

- Not addressed re this meeting per se.
- Alan was applauded for his tenure as President, and Alan thanked the three departing Board members.

18. Opening and Closing words for next meeting

- Mary Jo volunteered.

19. Closing words

- Alan offered closing words.
- The meeting was adjourned at 2 pm.
- Next meeting: July 20, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth M. Moffett, Secretary
June 10, 2014