



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING

Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2023, 6:30PM

Moderator: Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Board Members: Ace Barbari, Johanna Hardy, Phil Helbling, Chocolatté Miller, Terri Neal, Bobbi Strang

Trustees: ~~Cecelia Hayden-Smith~~, and Tamara Orebaugh

Guests: Rev. Cathy Alexander, Dr. Carla Sherrell, Dr. Teresa Tygart

- Song: Bobbi – Sawyer Brown, 800 Pound Jesus; and Scripture: Chocolatté, John 16:33.
- Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve agenda – Phil and Ace. Approved.
- Approval of Meeting minutes from April – Motion to accept April minutes – Phil and Bobbi. Approved.
- Consent Calendar:
 - Update on Security Grant. – Clear connection is finalizing the report and working with Homeland Security to approve and get that decision back to us to execute the work.
 - Pastoral Report – Motion to receive the pastoral report – Chocolatté and Ace. Motion approved.
- Harris Vs. JPG (Voting Item) :
 - Rev. Cathy met with the Harris representatives and asked for a clause to be added that says the contractor will be responsible for any items they break, which they have done.
 - Rev Cathy also met with JPG and gave them a walk through. JPG submitted a proposal as well. JPG said that they could not provide a bit equivalent to Harris’s “gold” all-inclusive service due to the fact that they did not do the original installation.
 - The JPG rate was about \$14K and the Harris rate was about \$9K.
 - Discussion about the two proposals. Ace asked about how someone would prove whether or not a system failure was the fault of the contractor or not. Rev. Dwayne said that although Harris’s performance has not been exemplary, we have a very good paper trail on all the problems we’ve had with them thanks to Melvin. Johanna mentioned concern with the use of the word “unequivocal” in their proposal – that that is a very high standard to reach and should be removed if we go with them.
 - Motion to approve the contract with Harris (Silver Plan) with the understanding that the language regarding “unequivocal” be removed before we sign the contract. Motion made by Johanna and seconded by Chocolatté to approve the Silver Plan. Motion passed.

- Upcoming Board Meetings (Voting Items)
 - Request to Move June 20th to June 27 – Motion to approve moving the meeting to the 27th made by Phil and Chocolatté. (Rev. Cathy and Terri will be out). Motion passed.
 - Request to Move August 15 to August 22 – Moved by Phil and Chocolatté, Motion passed.

- Treasurer's Report:
 - Amount in the Truist account is -\$6,497.67 if the BHT funds are not considered.
 - Amount in the Truist Buchanan fund is \$759.86
 - Amount in the EagleBank Emergency Fund is: \$27,781.83
 - Amount in the Charles Schwab FRFTF is: \$490,112.05
 - Rev. Cathy mentioned that the work on the apartment being repaired has been completed ahead of schedule. Final payment due to the contractor.
 - Remaining balance \$34,284.00 from the original \$175K approved by the congregation.
 - Terri asked that if you take cash deposit to the bank, that you take an electronic photo of it first and show it to Melvin as confirmation it has been deposited.
 - Rev Cathy asked for 2 BOD members volunteer to come over and sign the check for the rental repair contractor Bruce Edwards. Phil and Chocolatté volunteered to come in before the end of the day Friday to sign the check to the contractor.
 - Terri mentioned that we need to have a discussion about the funds in the BHT funds because we are close to tapping them out. Once those funds are tapped out, the BOD needs to have a discussion about sustainability. Johanna asked Terri about financial trends she is seeing. Terri said she hasn't had a chance to analyze for trends at this time. Phil asked about the analysis from the giving campaign. Rev. Cathy said the campaign was effective and got people thinking about giving, but an analysis hasn't been done yet. Rev. Dwayne mentioned we're looking at our next generosity cycle beginning in October. Rev. Dwayne mentioned that congregational growth goes hand-in-hand with generosity, and we'll be looking at both church growth and generosity beginning in July.
 - Motion to receive the Treasurers report made by Phil and Chocolatté. Motion passed.

- Support for Financial Responsibilities and Processes – Rev. Dwayne asked if Phil could honcho the signing up of BOD member signing up to be sure we have coverage for check-signing each week. Chocolatté mentioned that we usually don't need anyone to come in during the week as checks normally aren't ready until the end of the week.

- “Building a Culture of Generosity” update – Rev. Dwayne reported that this month our focus on generosity is around mental health. There are many angles to mental health and many was to be generous. The next meet the board testimony will be organized by Ace.

- Other items (to be discussed, as needed) –

- ANC meeting update - Rev. Dwayne said it is important to have consistent representation at DC ANC meetings. Rev. Dwayne said that these meetings are available by Zoom. It's important for us to monitor our local ANC meetings particularly about the discussions that are happening around zone parking. Our local ANC commissioner Michelle Migro is very good. A hot item this past meeting was about the Dept. of Corrections plan to turn the local police station into a holding facility. While the police did not show up to answer people's questions, the architect did and gave a presentation on the facilities redesign. This all was a surprise to the neighbors. Phil mentioned that he lives near (2 blocks) from the main DC jail, and that concerns may be unwarranted. Johanna mentioned her concern with the size of the facility being inhumane. Rev. Dwayne mentioned that there appear to be no outdoor opportunities for inmates that may be held there plus the traffic challenges. It is unclear if this facility would be just a holding facility or a prison.
 - AV advancement Project with AVG – Rev. Dwayne reported that Dale is working on this in conjunction with others.
 - Mid-City Development – no updates this month. Johanna reported that the earliest possible start date for the project appears to be the end of 2023 or the beginning of 2024. This is a best-case scenario. The deal with the city includes the taking of a site survey of neighboring properties before and after the excavation. Mid-City Development has promised to offer a survey specifically of our property before work starts.
 - Early Learners Academy Update – Rev. Dwayne reported that the Early Learners Academy is back to growing and they are doing well.
 - 50th MCCDC Anniversary – Rev. Dwayne reported that we still need a team to organize events. Rev. Dwayne said it would be nice to have an event in our parking lot and invite neighbors.
 - Discussion on the Buchanan Fund – Need to think about a discussion in the future on the Fund.
 - Shout-Outs – Phil gave a shout out to Rev. Dwayne and Bobbi for the minute taking. Rev. Dwayne gave a shout out to Phil for connecting the church with Mr. Edwards contracting. Rev. Cathy gave a shout out to Xavier Carroll. Rev. Teresa gave a shout out to Rev. Jules for her work organizing the Mental Health Awareness speakers.
 - Scripture and Song for following meeting – Phil scripture. Rev. Teresa will do the song.
- Motion to adjourn – Phil and Chocolatté.