

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP of LONGVIEW

Governing Board Meeting

May 9, 2010

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Vice President Marolen Mullinax, Secretary Sky Mitchell, Treasurer Huey Mitchell, Director-at-Large Amanda Koepke, Director-at-Large Celeste Fisher; Director-at-Large Chip Koepke

Absent Board Members: President Jessica Noble, Director-at-Large Tina Rushing

Also Present: Betty Ready, Austin Pennington; Zoe Koepke

Marolen called the meeting to order by lighting the candle.

The covenant was read by the board members.

The minutes from the April 18, 2010 board meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as submitted.

Amanda said she would be meeting with Brandy from Channel 31 to talk about designing an advertisement package for us that would be within our budget. There are billboard and video styles and different lengths of time. Chip suggested all board members check the UU videos on YouTube to get ideas for the ads.

Marolen thanked Betty and Austin for joining us today.

Huey did not hear from attorney Gary Shaver about the electrical wiring issue while Marolen was gone. Marolen said she would contact him this week to check on the status of the case.

Huey reported that the "assurance fee" that AT&T notified us they were charging for the new service agreement was included in the lower price he negotiated with them. There will be no long distance service on the phone at the Fellowship.

Sky said she had received notification from Kroger's that they will begin accepting applications for this year's Neighbor To Neighbor donation program June 1. She asked if the Board wanted the Fellowship to continue to be part of that program. Everyone said yes so she will submit the application.

Zoe told the Board that she would like to get some playground equipment so she could take the children outdoors for part of their learning activities. She said she would like it to be placed on the right hand side of the R E building. Huey noted we would have to be careful because the property line is pretty close to the building. Chip said he eyeballed it, using the hedges as a guide, and there looks to be a wide enough strip of land.

Marolen said Neal Katz will not be able to keep his June speaking date with us, so she is working on filling that spot. Prudence Thrasher will speak on the 13th, Megan on the 20th, and we will have a Poetry Fest & Pot Luck on the 27th. She also informed the Board that she is planning a Music Sunday in August at a member's request.

Next, Huey presented the financial report for April. The shortfall was discussed. There were no other questions. The report will be filed for audit.

Huey then presented the proposed budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. He noted the increase in funds allotted for building maintenance and explained that was because we will probably have to replace one of the AC units. Last year \$900 was budgeted for housekeeping; \$0 was allotted this fiscal year because the Fishers have volunteered to clean the building once a month. Our electric bills continue to be way too high. Replacing the old AC unit should help bring the total down, but we must also start turning the AC **off** when we leave the building. We may need to get a new thermostat that will allow us to program the AC to come on an hour or so before we are due to arrive. Chip said that closing in the attic space will help reduce the amount of electricity being used. It was agreed that someone be hired to put up the sheet rock and seal the seams ASAP. We are planning to apply for a NTAUUS grant to cover the cost of hiring speakers. A motion was made and seconded to accept the budget for presentation to the congregation at the ACBM next Sunday. It passed unanimously.

Celeste presented the slate of candidates to the Board. For president, Ruth Semrau; for vice president, Marolen Mullinax; for secretary, Celeste Fisher; for treasurer, Julie Hart; for member-at-large: Betty Ready, Gabi Owens, Lisa Sanders, and Gayle Heard. Betty Ready said she was willing to withdraw her nomination or act as an alternate if Huey would be willing to stay on the Board. Huey said he would have to think about it. Celeste will contact Gayle to find out if she still feels up to serving on the Board and let everyone on the Board know (via email) her response. (NOTE: Gayle responded as follows: "Yes, I'm willing to be nominated. If selected, perhaps there is something I can do worthwhile." The next day Betty formally withdrew her nomination and Huey agreed to serve on the Board as a member at large.)

Celeste said that she and Jeff would like to replace the plastic grating that filters the ceiling lights because they are very brittle and falling apart and some are completely missing. They would like to replace them with solid, clear plastic and would be able to do this by the end of June if the Board approves. Everyone said that it was fine. Marolen said they shouldn't have to pay for the plastic. It was suggested a special "Lighting Collection" could be taken up or it could be paid for out of the President's Discretionary Fund.

Amanda proposed that we purchase a banner to give us some exposure in the community. The Historic Longview Farmers Market, opening May 15, is selling banners to raise funds to run the market. The banners will be displayed at the market site (by the intersection of Cotton and High Street). The Board agreed this would be a good use of our Community Awareness funds. Amanda said she would purchase the banner and have our name, logo, and web address artistically arranged thereon.

There being no further business or concerns, Marolen extinguished the candle and adjourned the meeting.

Sky Mitchell, Secretary