

**First Unitarian Church
Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM in Church Office
April 16, 2013**

Board members attending: Christopher, Demi, Diem, Ketelle, Mayo, McLaughlin, Moore, Phillips, Suydam, Wofford.

Others attending: Herrera (ex-officio), Robinson (ex-officio)

Absent: Kwait

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Pat Diem. Chalice lighting by Wofford. Demi led us in discussion of question; “What social or political issue are you most passionate about and why?”

1. Administrative agenda—Diem

- A. Board Meeting minutes from March, 2013—Mayo
- B. Treasurer’s report February, 2013—Suydam
- C. Financial update of building construction—Suydam
- D. Status of Member Loan Requests—Diem
- E. Core staff report
- F. President’s report

Motion by Phillips to approve Administrative agenda. Second by Suydam. Motion passed.

- A. Board Meeting minutes from March 2013. *The minutes were reviewed. Suydam requested a change to the Treasurer’s Report to reflect the following: Operating income for the month of February was over budget by \$27,459 and therefore the year to date income is over budget by \$39134. Expenses continue to be below expectations, but are up slightly as compared to last month. Phillips moved to accept the minutes with suggested changes. Wofford 2nd. Motion carried.*

B. Treasurer’s report.

Suydam reported pledge income for March was \$45,792.36, \$5,465.22 under budget. Non pledge gifts were \$6,420.04, over budget by \$753.37. Total YTD income is over budget by \$29,269.41. Total expenses for March were \$1,671.65 under budget. Total YTD expenses are under budget by \$7,374.62. Utilities are under budget as well, by \$1,284.25.

\$4,052.07 was transferred from reserve to cover the 2012 budget deficit. \$78,852.54 was transferred from designated funds as a short term loan to the capital funds.

C. Financial update on building construction—Suydam/Knoebel report.

Suydam reported that the building funding continues to be very positive. We had intended to access the line of credit in February but didn't need to do it until April when we withdrew \$150,000. The delay in accessing the LOC was because we

borrowed from ourselves and people have been forward paying their pledges. That has resulted in a savings of interest costs of approximately \$35k.

B. Status of Member Loan Requests

Diem reported that in addition to 35 letters sent to non-Board contributors, Board members have also been invited to make loans. 8 loans have been made as of 4/12/2013 totaling \$78,000. Geri Knoebel has suggested that we could use as many members' loans as are offered. Consequently, at some point the loan opportunity may be open to the broader congregation. The church will benefit from whatever the final amount of loans amounts to.

C. Core Staff report

Herrera reported that a Board to Board meeting took place with La Puerta de los Ninos. There were no major issues.

D. President's report.

Diem reported that La Puerta is continuing to work toward a long-term lease at a new location and is hoping to vacate 1st Unitarian by September. Diem met with the Sanctuary Building Aesthetics Team (SBAT). The mural will be moved with no changes to the symbols, however, the curvature will be altered somewhat. This will not, it appears, alter the artistic integrity of the mural. Plans for the recognition celebration during the new sanctuary dedication weekend are continuing; now with help from two extended families (Penguin and Mapalos) and others in the congregation at large.

2. New Business

A. Funding for Building Recognition Celebration

Diem presented a tentative motion to approve \$1,500 in funding for the recognition celebration. The DCT has designated \$3,000 for the celebration weekend activities. The celebration will begin with 6:00 PM in the new social hall. Heavy hors doeuvres will be provided. Phillips is continuing to compile a list of those who will be recognized for their contributions. McLaughlin presented a program draft on which she has been working. She will continue to work with others on the Board to finalize the program for the evening.

B. No Weapons on Campus Signage

Diem reported that a police officer advised Jay that if we are to restrict the carrying of weapons on campus, signage to that effect will have to be posted. Diem suggested that this is a topic best handled by Healthy Community Committee. Phillips, who serves on the Healthy Community Committee, pointed out that this is no trivial matter, and should probably begin with consulting the congregation. Phillips referred Board Members to a sermon on guns in church by Reverend

*Suzelle Lynch of UU Church West in Brookfield, Wisconsin.
<http://uucw.org/worship/sermons?task=view&id=15>*

3. Soft couch discussions

A. Piano for new Sanctuary—McLaughlin

McLaughlin reported that to re-build but not re-finish the current Steinway piano will cost \$23,800 and involve shipping the piano to the Steinway facility in Oregon. She did extensive research on alternatives and presented the Board with the detailed paperwork on the Yamaha AvantGrand N3 piano. She has tested the piano and found it to be worthy. An AvantGrand will cost approximately \$14,600. Lynne will convene knowledgeable musical congregation members to develop a recommendation regarding the piano.

B. SBAT and Mural Move Update—Diem

Diem reported that the activities of the Sanctuary Building Aesthetics Team have been very challenging and has caused stress among committee members. The Healthy Community Team has been asked to be part of resolving the stressful interactions within the group.

Further, Diem has reported that a meeting between the DCT and the SBAT has been held to discuss the artistic integrity of the new sanctuary building. A message to the SBAT was drafted. The message is as follows:

“The Board thanks you for your work so far on the issues and logistics of moving the mural. We know that the contract extended to the persons who will be selected to move the mural will be a large one, and that the selection is complicated by the fact that the project has changed in important ways, and that there are pre-existing relationships between committee members and interested contractors. This makes it essential that this be done in a business-like way and by the whole committee. Our expectation is that a current Request for Proposal document be drawn up and sent to all parties who have expressed interest in this job, and that the committee agree on the selection criteria and method of selection. The Board directs that Pat Diem participate with the committee during this process.”

*Motion by Suydam that the Board approve the letter to the SBAT.
Second by Diem. Motion passed.*

C. Building Dedication Planning

McLaughlin presented a program draft for the recognition ceremony. She will continue developing it.

Phillips reported that the recognition list is going well. The list currently stands at about 80 names.

Diem expects that the list will flesh out to around 100 names when invited individuals plus guests are finalized.

Discussion:

Should we open the event to the entire congregation, and, if so, how do we handle the cost? Tickets perhaps? A spaghetti dinner for kids, who will not be required to have a ticket.

The following motion was crafted:

“We authorize a recognition celebration event with invited guests to attend for free. Tickets will be sold to cover the costs of additional guests.”

Motion by Phillips to accept. Second by McLaughlin. Motion passed

C. Construction Update—Phillips

Phillips reported that construction remains on schedule with substantial completion planned for mid-May. Interior painting is moving forward. Break-through into the current sanctuary is in progress. Fencing is coming down in selected areas as required by exterior work. The exterior envelope of the building is complete. Landscaping and installation of an irrigation system is in full swing and should be completed by April. Sidewalks along Comanche and Carlisle are being removed and replaced by wider ones. The issue concerning 1st UU having to foot the bill for replacing the ramps and corner sidewalk at the intersection of the two streets has been resolved. The AV budget is now at \$80,000.00 and the AV group has begun selecting hardware.

4. Future agenda items

Senior Minister Evaluation

5. Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted, Chris Mayo, Secretary