

RE COUNCIL MINUTES

April 17, 2016

Present: Geri Knoebel, Mia Noren, Angela Herrera, Carol Cowan, Desiree Spielman, Nicia Rae, James Galasinski, Benita Terrell. Absent: Stirling Crow, Cliff Youngberg.
Began: 12:30

Administrative Agenda:

- Chalice lighting – Nicia; Desiree - light chalice next month
- Approved March minutes
- Next meeting is May 15th

Staff Reports:

- Geri:
 - All portfolios are filled
 - Stability in RE leadership
 - In process of hiring a youth coordinator
 - Over 50 people attended the first 1st Sunday picnic
 - We're getting closer to having a 2-year curriculum
 - Website is looking good
 - Over 700 books were collected for "Read to Me"
- Mia:
 - Cliff Youngberg (Buildings and Landscape portfolio) will not attend many Council meetings due to Reserve weekends. One possibility he mentioned was getting students from UNM Landscape and Architecture Dept involved.
 - Generosity month went well. Lots of enthusiasm about the Can Hunt. Next year, use more durable bags than plastic. A can fell on a girl's foot.
 - Picnic was huge success.
 - 2 applications submitted for the Youth Coordinator position and one is exciting.
 - Hosted successful OWL Facilitator's dinner. Germinated idea of creating OWL portfolio position on the RE Council.
 - Last teacher lunch was on April 10th. Will be once a semester from now on.
 - Guest at Your Table earned \$1400. This is Mia's first year to be involved. Difficulty getting people to own the program and make it successful. Should improve with familiarity as an annual event.
- James:
 - Last meeting with the RE Council.
 - Mid-High currently studying Islam. Outside class activities have included going to Kadampa Meditation Center and volunteering at Road Runner Food Bank.
 - Coming of Age is leading worship on Sunday, April 24th.
 - La Amikoj studying deep listening and death. On May 1st, La Amikoj will welcome Mid-High with food and icebreakers.

- James advising Mia in taking on youth program. “Youth Ministry is a partnership. We’re not empowering them, but partnering with them. They like the incorporation of spiritual practices.”
- Benita:
 - To meet with Mia to clarify role of Evaluation portfolio and create plan.
 - To seek ongoing feedback on activities. Current and relevant issues to be reported to Mia and Council for immediate attention. Other feedback to be bundled and used to create overall evaluation of individual programs.
- Nicia:
 - So far, no interest in selling chips and soda at family picnics.
 - Pulpit editorial brought in far less than last year. Funds won’t be available for complete scholarships as they have been in the past.
 - Mia to meet with Keith to determine if RE can help with Camp. How much and in what capacity?
 - RE may not be able to help with registrar duties. Heather Clark will help with registrar’s task and Meghan has set up website to facilitate process.
 - RE has never been in charge of camp; it has always been organized by volunteers. However, Camp has always been perceived as part of RE and it should probably remain a volunteer-run program, separate from RE.
 - There is general confusion about what is going on.
- Desiree
 - Picnic went well. Need to clarify with parents that it’s their responsibility to watch their own kids. It is not on RE’s time.
 - Will lock all doors except main hallway so that children are not wandering inside unsupervised.
 - Annual Family BBQ is set for Saturday, May 14th

Action Items:

- Creating RE Council OWL portfolio position.
 - Needs include improving current schedule for mid-high OWL classes, We’re offering young adult and adult OWL facilitator training even though we don’t currently offer either. OWL portfolio can address all these issues.
 - Council approved creating OWL position on Council. Mia will write up description.
 - Mia will first seek potential candidates among current facilitators.
- Ratio Requirements for Overnights
 - Motion approved to have at least 1 man and 1 woman at any overnight. More chaperones, of any gender must be added in keeping the ratios of 1 adult per 7 kids. Carol will write up motion to be acted at May Council meeting.
- Pulpit Editorial at Coming of Age service will be given by Stirling, Mia and Geri.
- Summer 8-week programming
 - We’re not seeking teaching teams; it’s too difficult when people are away so much during the summer. We want volunteers to sign up for dates they’re available.

- There will be sign-ups for summer youth programming for elementary pre-k and 2nd-5th grade. Anyone interested in youth advising will be invited to make an appointment for an interview with the DRE.
- There was one curriculum for mid-high (6-8) and one for high school (9-12), but we decided to try inviting youth (6-12) to participate in either curriculum that interested them.
- La Amikoj and Mid-High
 - Youth Advisors are needed. There will be no sign-ups; only interviews.
 - Offer the La Amikoj summer program to Mid-High? The different ages will be together at camp, so why not introduce it with these programs?
 - Let youth individually choose which course they will sign up for: “You the Creator of Justice” or “The Fifth Dimension” (episodes from the Twilight Zone – Rod Sterling was a UU). Both last 8 weeks. Once chosen, the youth must stick with their choice.
 - “D’Oh God!” curriculum...what did we say about this? I also purchased the Simpsons curriculum. We’ll do it sometime in the future.
 - La Amikoj - Grill nights will be happening.
- Be Smart for Kids – Forum on gun safety will be scheduled for La Amikoj and Mid-High students to attend. Parents of younger children will be invited.
- RE Mini camp is on a children’s chapel day – instead of, do vespers. Heather Clark is organizing.
- Field Day is on May 29th. We’ll need lots of volunteers.