

Regular Meeting
Board of Trustees of the Center for Spiritual Living
September 22, 2009 6:30 P.M.

Present: Freddie Barrett; Cindy Garfein; Keith Jefferson; Kathianne Lewis, D.D.; Alinda Page; Hajara Rahim, RScP; Ray Rebello
Absent: Diann Durbin, RScP; Denise McDonald, RScP
Non-voting: Raylene Ewing, RScP, Recording Secretary; Allyson Hughes, RScP, Practitioner
Attendees: to the Board; Carmin Dalziel-Kessler, RScP

6:30 P.M. Keith Jefferson called the meeting to order. Allyson Hughes, RScP, gave the opening prayer.

Minutes and Reports

Monthly Minutes from August 25, 2009 6:30 PM

There were no amendments.

Kathianne Lewis moved to approve the minutes; Alinda Page seconded; motion passed.

Financial Report

Roald Blom has resigned due to scheduling conflicts.

Kathianne shared the financial report. We are doing very well. We have done very well with minimizing expenses through selective spending. Total contributions are 92% of pledges, which is the same as this time last year.

Our bank has concerns because we are not making a specific ratio that is in our contract. This ratio is marked each quarter. Our last quarter's ratio was off by a fraction of a percent, but still requires some shifting to be in conformity with our loan agreement. Bruce Strasser and Kathianne are working to rectify the situation.

Kathianne moved that we have a policy to reduce the amount that we capitalize for purchases from \$500 to \$100; Ray Rebello seconded the motion. Keith Jefferson asked if there are any considerations we need to take into account before we pass the motion; Hajara Rahim abstained; motion carried.

Keith requested that we look at this ratio regularly; Carmin Dalziel-Kessler will make it part of the board packet in the Financial Report.

Management Team Reports

Wisdom Council

Kathianne has been looking at what kind of organizational chart would work to help us handle more people. We need a document for coming up with ideas for making more money and bringing more people in. Strategies for bringing in different demographics: locals, families, etc. We have to see how measurable it is and whether we can handle it with our present staff. It would take a lot of strategizing and marketing. Carmin and Debbie Sztain have a proposal for running a drop-in daycare; possible users are job hunters, Children's Hospital families; what does it cost to set up; what would it take to break even. Send post cards to the neighborhood letting them know what we offer daycare, "And oh by the way we are the Center for Spiritual Living." Also let our community know.

Heather LaneMcCants is keeping track of numbers with our drop-in groups. We have not been keeping track prior to now. Kathianne will talk to Heather so that there is clarity around whether the numbers we are looking at are weekly or monthly. Input is welcome around what numbers would be valuable to track. Per Carmin's suggestion we will add the number of volunteers on Sunday. We will also add webinars.

Staff Minister

We have not received applications from ministers with adequate Compassionate Care background to replace Rev. Lynnea Jardine. However, Compassionate Care calls are at most five per week. The question becomes, do we need a Compassionate Care minister when we have such low demand and such highly trained practitioners and volunteers.

YFM

We want to have 10% of adult attendance represented in YFM. Cindy Garfein asked if any of the facilitators are paid. Kathianne explained that some of our paid staff is facilitating, but they get paid the same amount whether they facilitate these groups or not.

Facilities Manager

John Field is no longer on staff with Center for Spiritual Living. Mike Hiraoka is stepping in to help with facilities while his child care hours have been reduced.

Bookstore

Kelly Tissot has moved her membership to Center for Spiritual Living, Eastside, leaving a position open. We might create a full-time job to replace her.

Beyond Limits

There are 180 students in Beyond Limits. People are coming from as far away as Sultan and Lake Stevens.

Board Q & A

Carmin said they collected information. There were some questions about the CSO project. Someone who attended is doing research on creating a dog park on the property. There are more dogs than children in Seattle proper. We could create a pay-for-doggie day care for Sundays and events. Charge a user fee. Cindy suggested a "dog cemetery." We have property we can't do anything with.

Keith wonders if we need to have the Q & A so often since more board members than congregants show up.

SPU Update

Kathianne provided the SPU update. She or someone else has met with Tom Fawthrop every week regularly. They want a letter from us giving them permission to pursue a Type 5 Variance to our Master Use Permit ("MUP") because we are zoned residential, which means they might not be able to build on this property. They have to apply for a MUP, but they can't apply for a MUP because they don't own the property, and we are not under condemnation. We've told them to have their attorney draw up a proposal for our attorney to review. Our attorney will probably tell them it is not in our best interests. They don't want to condemn it and then find out they can't develop in a residential zone. Ray believes that the construction project should not take all of two years. There is a question about whether there is an endangered woodpecker on the property. The Army Corps of Engineers confirmed with SPU that the ditch in front of Center for Spiritual Living is wetlands and connects with traditional navigational waters (Lake Washington).

Keith and Ray attended public meetings. 45 people were at first meeting. 35 at second. There were good questions at the meetings. There were questions about whether this is a real need for the CSO, but really overflow once is too many times.

New Business

Congregant Comments

Kathianne said there was positive response to the Wednesday announcement of the CSO. There is a letter that provides feedback about the CSO project, expressing concern about our selection for the CSO.

A staff member called several people about some concerns about staffing policies. Carmin talked to him, and he sent her a nice note on Facebook.

Acknowledging Staff

Alinda moved that there be an acknowledgement of the staff in keeping the expenses in line. Keith asked how we wanted to acknowledge them. Kathianne suggested we put it in the minutes. Kathianne will send an email to the staff thanking them for their diligent efforts in keeping expenses down.

Prison Ministry

Hajara presented a brief on the Prison Ministry's returnee program. Ray wants a definition of "Returnee." Is returnee someone who is on parole, or a repeat offender, "approve to attend" is it services, classes or retreats. Alinda asked if we have returnees now. Carmin said we have two applications waiting to be approved. Carmin is aware of one returnee who she was in contact with. Cindy wonders if this is not a lot of resources for such small participation. Prison ministry is doing a program in January. Alinda asks for the language to be clear about what a returnee is. Policy for self-identified. People required by the state to identify themselves to the church. The board would like to revisit this document next month when it's been cleaned up and clarified. "Returnee" and what is the policy for, "with mandatory reporting requirements."

Dedication

We are going to have a re-dedication Wednesday 9/23/09. And we'll do something on Sunday 9/27/09 to commemorate the opening of the Celebration Hall at this time last year.

September Membership class

Postponed due to staffing concerns. We'll have a big one later. Usually follows Beyond Limits.

8:00 P.M. Keith Jefferson adjourned the meeting. Allyson Hughes, RScP, gave the closing prayer. Next meeting to be held Tuesday, October 27, 2009, at 6:30 P.M. in Acorn.