Tahoma Unitarian Universalist Congregation - Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2021 7 pm - 9 pm via Zoom

Attendees: Libby Ball, Maria Figueroa, Jonina Wright, Sheila Whybrow, Krissy Kim, Christine Chanseley, Joe Rettenmeier, Jeff Rutherford, Holly Coryell

Congregational Guests: Marguerite Marsh

Reading - Sheila/ Holly (2 min) , Chalice Lighting (2 min)

Check in Question - What does the changing of seasons do for you? How does it affect you?
Consent Agenda: Erien Babcock ordination in Dec - simple online service BOT approval needed, Approval of September meeting minutes

Motion: Approval of September meeting minutes, passed; Erien Babcock ordination in Dec - simple online service BOT approval needed, passed

Treasurer's Report: Jeff R stock profile updated.
Staff Report:

Old Business

Response to indoor guidelines from the congregation

- Congregational Guest comments/ question: wants to ask for firm date of in person services to which the BOT does not have a date for + express concern for loss of members and fallout of congregation. Expressing concern for the inability to "make things perfect" for everyone + sense of urgency to begin offering in person options for church. "We're dealing with adults who can make their own decision".
    - Coming together board rep: Using the website CovidActNow.org as guided by the UUA to help us decide safety for all ages to attend in person
        - Rev Joe: "As a faith community, we consider the most vulnerable among us. Those with compromised, health concerns, our children who aren't yet vaccinated. Currently 1 congregation in Puget Sound, Shoreline UU, is on much reduced attendance guideline, HVAC improved, people sign up with reservations to attend)." TUUC's HVAC is "woefully outdated and ill prepared" to filter out virus particles unlike other UUC's HVAC systems. As a principled community of faith, we want to safely gather, as safe as possible... we are not going for perfection. We are following published CDC and Pierce County publich health and UUA guidelines for how to gather as a faith community suffering from Delta variant. We are not going for perfection. We've opened windows, added fans, added portable air filters. Staffing and lay volunteerism with all of these factors and guidance, we have had to settle on let's begin having small groups of 8 people in sanctuary only.
            Our basement, RE classrooms, there is no air circulation down there. Forefront of our minds, what would happen to our faith community if 1 of us contracted Covid in our building? What would the implications of that be? We cannot verify who has been vaccinated and who has not. This is not permanent, this is ever-changing and emphasizes the science changing as we learn more. These are temporary and dynamic guidelines that change as our community and Pierce county moves thru Delta variant, getting vaccinated etc.
    - Action: Maria Figueroa has asked to be included as a re-opening committee meeting attendee
        - Action: Consider other sectors re-entry guidelines

- Action: BOT President asked for Coming Together Committee guidelines to be reconsidered so that “up to 10 people” can gather in sanctuary to replace “8 people maximum”.

Safe Parking Updates - 140 total parkers participants; 37 have found permanent housing + services (4 came from TUUC lot that have transitioned to housing using services provided)

- BOT President attended the last couple of SJC subcommittee’s meetings; Safe Parking is losing its funder and will wait to see if another agency (Associated Ministries is a candidate to be an administrator, not funder) will pick up the Safe Parking funding.
- Rev Joe: this Safe Parking is UU ‘walking the talk’ our values. Our particular lot is the only one in city limits of Tacoma. We need to be mindful of separating the PCS and Safe Parking as addressing 2 distinct issues.
- Pierce County Security is $375 monthly for 2x night (irregular times) check to walk around property to make sure we don’t have campers, unregistered for Safe Parking. We made decision to move campers when fire was lit on our steps, endangering building. PCS has been very effective in keeping unregistered users of property in addition to Safe Parking. PCS was contracted following the fire and the endangerment of one of our parkers and to keep staff safe.
- ACTION: BOT representative volunteer requested to attend sub committee meetings Wednesdays at 5:30pm

Pierce County Security - month to month contract ($375 +$25 per response call / month) w/ 6 days notice to end service

Book-keeping update - Sheila ; re-presented proposal formulated in June 2021 (in meeting minutes) to update to Quick Books Accounting and Payroll software;

- Libby is getting books caught up with ICON
- Actions: Sheila and Penny D. are willing to volunteer on the Breeze software once we get to that point.
- Board member suggested for technical accounting intern students looking to build resumes to help with our needs
-
- **New Business**

Vaccination Clinic update - Maria will be attending next clinic. 5 participants from first

offering. Leading from the Heart share out from attending BOT members - Jonina + Holly;

Volunteer burnout -

Google drive for board members - Jonina w/ Libby information ; Secretary Jonina Wright update: Hopes to be completed before maternity leave Dec 30th, 2021

Small group meetings - in person + cleaning / facilities update in preparation - 5 people signed up for Chalice Circles;

- Action: Re-engage the membership committee to investigate member drop-out or new members. Holly C. volunteered to be BOT member liaison to this committee

Linda’s return - board discussion or list of first discussion topics

- Service to be offered together with Joe and Linda on Oct 31.

Maintenance budget additional funds needing approval - Libby report shared Rev Joe commented on visual improvement of painting, chair deep cleaning, fans, AV equipment for hybrid services. New funds needed will be presented again next month.

Secretary Maternity Leave - suggested dividing up responsibilities by month; Maria F. volunteered to step in when comfortable