

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Chico Board Meeting

August 31, 2023

Attendance: Board: Lucy Sperlin, President; Bob Crowe, Dave Keller, Angela Risdon, Pam Sachs, Merrily Stover (via Zoom)
Absent: Susan Bachlor
Minister: Kathryn Adams (via Zoom)
Guests: Pamm Larry, Amber French, Wayne Shems (via Zoom)

The meeting started at 6:30 with guests Pamm Larry and Amber French representing the Butte County Local Food Network (BCLRN). They offered a number of concepts and ideas for the backyard and garden, including the possibility of a spot to leave free food for neighbors. Ideas included a pergola (UUFC has one to consider, donated by David Strohmeyer and Suzan Scott), a circular path around the cherry tree, various native flowers/plantings, a bench, a labyrinth, and additional expansion of the working garden.

Concerns were raised about how the Fellowship's neighbors would accept additional people coming onto the property. The Fellowship continues to pursue seeking modifications with our current use permit.

Before implementing any plans, Pamm explained that BCLFN would want a vision statement from the Fellowship of what we want for our property, how we would work with BCLFN for an initial term of 2 years, and whether/how we can achieve buy-in from the neighborhood. Pamm and Amber departed. No further action by the Board was identified.

The official meeting of the Board was called at 7:15 by President Lucy Sperlin. Angela read the Chalice lighting words, followed by brief check-ins from those present. Angela requested that Kathryn's schedule be added to the agenda under 'Brief Updates.' **Bob moved that the agenda be approved as presented.** The motion was seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.

Angela moved that the minutes of August 3 and August 19 be approved. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dave gave the **treasurer's report** which was earlier sent as e-mail documents to all Board members. He noted that attorney's fees for our Use Permit case are not in the budget. The funds are being taken from our savings account. He also noted some problems with Power-Church entries which are being resolved. Steep water and electricity bills will be addressed with changes to irrigation and sanctuary thermostats, in process. Dave noted that there was an item (Bryan's retirement) that was paid in July, which needs to be re-entered as a June expense for fiscal year 22-23.

Action: Dave will prepare a revised End of Year Income & Expense statement for FY 2022-23 to include Bryan Plude's retirement payment.

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Active Items

1. Lucy reported that the **2022-2023 Annual Report** is in progress. Bob is working on the Building & Grounds component.

2. Bob reported that he and Angela met on Zoom again with the attorney advising us on our **Use Permit** matter. The attorney had asked for a statement of how we want to modify our Use Permit, as well as how the current limitations are a burden on what and how we are able to use our property. A draft has been submitted with a final draft to be sent within 10 days. To date we have paid \$4,500 in fees. Additionally we've paid \$3,500 as a retainer, which is being held in a trust account. The final cost estimates range from \$6,000 to \$7,500. Angela will look into setting up a crowdfunding 'Faithify' account in order to be ready should we need to raise additional funds in pursuit of the Use Permit.

Action: Dave and Bob will contact folks who might be willing to contribute financially. Megan Johnson and Lucy would also be on the committee. Dave will call the meeting after September 12.

3. Pam reported that the **Auction** was scheduled for October 28. We need to start advertising the event. Donations from the community will be needed.

Action: Dave will photograph and place online on the auction website. He will do all data entry. Dave will ask the congregation for donations. Other board members should ask others as well. Kathryn is also willing to reach out.

Action: It was decided that the auction will have a 'soft deadline' of October 28, and a 'hard deadline' of early November.

Items for Discussion/ Decision

1. **Bob moved that we donate \$1250 from our Camp Fire Funds to Mana Mentors.**

The motion was seconded. Mana Mentors is a non-profit charitable organization that supports kids and others affected by the wildfires in Lahaina, Maui. Approximately \$4,500 is currently in our Camp Fire fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Action: Bob will oversee the writing of the letter and ensure that the amount approved is sent to the organization.

2. **Angela moved that we have a task force to collaboratively develop a garden and grounds vision for our property.** The motion was seconded. Bob noted that Adrienne Edwards has drawn up a map of the entire property. The motion carried unanimously.

Action: Bob will announce to the Fellowship an open invitation to be on the task force to envision the grounds of our property.

3. **Child Care:** Pam reported that there is an organization that provides professional babysitters that we could call upon. Background checks would be required of all who work with children. \$20/Sunday has been budgeted.

Action: Because of the need for a good first impression with the beginning of the new church year, it was agreed that professional childcare be provided for the first 4 to 6 weeks of the year.

4. **Administrator/Coordinator Position:** Lucy reported that Jane is ready to retire. However, the new position description is not complete.

Action: A committee of Bev McMillan, Pam Sachs, and Susan Bachlor will meet after Pam gets back from travel to finalize the job description.

5. **Congregational Meeting:** It was decided to schedule a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, October 29, to approve the budget and report to the Congregation on the Grounds Plan.

6. **New Committee Structure/Appointments:** Lucy proposed a “Membership Circle” where the chairs of all committees and all Lay leaders come together. The goal is to identify, to realize, how the work in their areas is important for membership.

Action: A “Save the Date” notice of October 13 -15 will be sent out to the Congregation with final meeting time pending information about Kathryn’s travel that weekend.

7. **By-laws (Appointment of By-Laws Review Committee):** Because of the current heavy load on the Board, it was agreed to postpone discussion until the September meeting.

8. **Printed Order of Service:** Lucy noted that having a printed order of service or a flyer of some sort with information can be important for visitors to take with them. She offered her color printer. It was noted that the Worship Associates committee should discuss this topic.

Action: As co-chair of the Worship Associates Committee, Angela will bring the issue of the printed order of service to the Committee at their next meeting.

9. **Communicating Board Decisions:** Angela noted that there is a need for the Fellowship and committee chairs to be better informed of Board decisions.

Action: ‘Board Musings’ will be expanded to include Board decisions; the e-news will include a summary of board happenings. Lucy will write the first one, for the next E-news.

10. **Kathryn’s Welcome Week.** Meg Brady will coordinate Kathryn’s schedule.

Action: Lucy, Meg, and Angela will meet with Kathryn via Zoom on September 5 to plan and review activities for that week. Meg will continue to coordinate Kathryn’s schedule.

11. **Buildings and Grounds.** Bob reported there is the possibility of no air conditioning in the sanctuary. Repairs are scheduled and thermostats are in the process of being installed. Hopefully, everything will be done by Sunday. The irrigation upgrades are also expected to be completed by Saturday, with water controlled by a new Wi-Fi system.

Angela read the closing words.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 Pacific time.

Respectfully submitted,

Merrily Stover
Secretary, UUFC Board