

# UNITARIAN SOCIEY OF GERMANTOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 26, 2017

**Present:** Mike Campbell, Bill Morrow, Eli Searce, Eva Finney, Joanne Davis, Tom Ott, Susan Smith

**Excused:** Linda Brunn, Scott Wolkenberg

**Guests:** Bill Dowdall, Bill Blasdel, Kurt Ahrens, Linda Bernstein

## December Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

## Capital Projects and Fundraising Campaign

Linda reported that the total in pledges and donations stands at \$352,510 as of today, with one last appeal going out to reach stragglers. Owing to new information affecting the driveway plan and costs, the campaign committee recommends that the driveway work not begin until it is clear that we have sufficient funds for both the driveway and elevator.

Bill Blasdel and Bill Dowdall reported that the original driveway estimate called for widening the driveway at the top and bottom, but not the middle. After a survey completed by the City, it was determined that we own more land than we initially believed, and that despite several challenges (a hill, the need to remove dirt and build a retaining wall, the need to preserve walkways, drainage, storm water remittance, tree removal), it might be possible to widen the entire length of the driveway. Congregation member and landscape architect Al Parker reviewed the project and estimates cost from about \$40K to just under \$100K. In summary, our options for improving the driveway are:

Digging out dirt at the Johnson Street end and putting down stone	\$2,000
Re-surfacing only	15,000
Re-surfacing with widening at the top and bottom	22,000
Re-surfacing, widening along the full length, retaining wall	75,000-100,000

It was noted that a \$4,000 bequest for lighting is already in hand.

With respect to the elevator, Charles Gabriel is familiar with both the elevator (Otis) and the installer. The current unit is larger and less expensive (\$375-380K) than the one that was originally considered. Next steps include securing architectural drawings and putting the project out to bid. It was moved (by Bill Morrow), seconded and unanimously approved \$25,000 for the purpose of preparing design drawings and other design documents that can be used to secure bids.

## 2017 Meeting Dates

It was agreed that because of the Christmas holiday, the December meeting date will be changed from the 26<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>.

## MET Transition

It was clarified that the process for selecting MET members should include the MET identifying names to be shared with and approved by the Board prior to discussion with candidates. Six possible candidates

were identified and unanimously approved . Current MET members will follow up with these candidates.

### **President's Report**

Tom indicated that Jess Slivak and Jenn Leiby have agreed to join the Board. The Nominating Committee continues to search for a third person.

### **Election of 2017-18 Officers**

Motions by by Bill Morrow to elect Susan Smith and Eli Searce as President and Vice President, respectively, were seconded and unanimously passed.

### **Minister's Report**

Kent shared that MLK Day went extremely well, that Children's Spiritual Development is solid and growing, and that our annual report of membership to the UUA will reflect growth from 302 to the mid-teens.

Kent's sabbatical will run from February 15 – August 15. Linda Bernstein will serve as the primary point person on MET. Both Linda and Bill Dowdall will continue to handle MET duties beyond their official terms. Areas of responsibility are as follows:

Jenn Leiby - Small Group Ministries, Spiritual Development and Worship Arts

Linda Bernstein - Caring and Social Justice

Bill Dowdall - Buildings & Grounds and Budget

Gloria Guldager - Buildings & Grounds, Budget, Staff (Mike and contracted staff)

### **Policy Regarding Contractors**

The recommended policy concerning the use of contractors at USG was unanimously approved.