

Roser Council Meeting Minutes January 25, 2023

Present: Glenda Beck, Jim Bennington, Beth Bernet, Cherrie Birkman, David Cheshire, Doug and Diane DeLong, Andy Devries, Dan Divine, Dale and Barb Dohner, Nancian Hall, Gary Hickerson, Mary Horton, Marcia McCallister, Cathy Meehan, Linda Moore, Peggy Nash, Gretchen Petraski, Donna Pope, Rev. Dr. Dirk Rodgers, Darrell Shinn, John and Sharon Skladany, Gail and Randy Swain, Ron Vandeman, Dick Walter, Alan Ward, Randy Zion.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chair Cathy Meehan.

Joys and Concerns were shared. Pastor Dirk opened the meeting with prayer.

Cathy announced that in the absence of Cass Robertson our Clerk, this meeting is being recorded for future transcription.

The Minutes of the December 14, 2023 Council meeting were approved with the following correction: under the report from the Women's Guild, Melinda's last name should be Harris, not Harry.

Pastor's Report – Rev. Dr. Dirk Rodgers

There is only one addition to the report sent out prior to the meeting. Membership cards will be passed out at both services on Sunday to update and correct information on Roser members.

Executive Committee – Cathy Meehan

Chair Cathy Meehan turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair John Skladany for the Executive Committee Report. Cathy Meehan, as Chair of the Executive Committee, brought forward a motion from Executive Committee concerning the amended lease agreement with Sato Real Estate. After providing some background on the process leading to the motion, Cathy made a **motion** from the Executive Committee:

**Recommending Council acceptance of the negotiated amended Sato Real Estate lease agreement, at a rate of \$3 per day or \$5400 per year plus sales tax. This is an annual agreement, with annual reviews to start in October. This year only includes a \$500 donation for a gate in the new south lot fence.
The motion was voted on and passed 21-4.**

Cathy resumed the position of Chair of the meeting.

Nominating – Darrel Shinn

Darrel reviewed the chart of filled elected Board and Committee positions for 2023. There are 63 elected positions listed, including six people that are new to Council this year, and five that are new to their position. Twelve have agreed to a second term, four have agreed to a third term, and seven have agreed to a fourth term.

Trustees – Alan Ward

Trustees are in the process of updating the Rose Garden and the Sanctuary portico area and have done the annual tree trimming.

BREd – Beth Bernet

Nothing new to add to the report sent out prior to the meeting.

Deacons – John Skladany

The holiday services all went well. We have two prospective members that we feel very good about.

Missions – Randy and Gail Swain

In addition to the information in their submitted report, Randy said that they currently have 14 missions signed up for Mission Fest on February 12 and expect a few more to join.

Music – Jeanette Rothberg

In addition to the report, Jeanette reminded everyone of the Cypress Brass concert on Tuesday, January 31, the first of this year's Concert Series.

Altar Committee – Donna Pope

The bench in front of the Sanctuary is being repaired and will be painted by Pat Bellmar. They are looking for furniture for the Narthex update.

Stephen Ministry –

They are working on ways to promote Stephen Ministry and will finish Dick and Betty Gilmore's training which was delayed last year.

Food Bank – Cathy Meehan

In December the Food Bank distributed 56 bags of groceries, up somewhat from previous months, and spent \$3,515 on Publix cards, a slight increase. The blessing box appears to be getting more use as of late. As of January 4th, they have \$30,362 in the bank due to some very good end of year donations.

Membership – Sharon Skladany

Thank you to Nikkiah and Dirk for the membership update cards, which will allow for updating the membership roles.

Guild – Cherrie Birkman

Nothing else to report.

Library – Doug and Dianne DeLong

Nothing new to report.

Stewardship – Randy Zion

Mike Meehan is going to talk about the John Roser Society at both services this coming Sunday. Sometime within the first three months they hope to have another Stewardship Moment to talk about stewardship, time, talent, and especially giving, as Roser may have a financially challenging year coming up.

Finance – Gary Hickerson, Jim Bennington, David Cheshire

Gary reported that our net income in December totaled \$42,731 versus a budgeted net income of \$36,941. Revenue or total contributions were also over budget at \$108,708 vs. a budget of \$99,038. Our expenses were also over budget, but income was over budget to a greater extent for the month of December. December expenses totaled nearly \$66,000 versus a budget of approximately \$62,000. The December results were good year to date, with total contributions of \$678,437 versus a budget of \$679,181, only \$744 under budget. Total actual expenses were approximately \$700,000 versus a budget of \$756,000.. Overall, there was a loss of \$21,00 vs. a budgeted loss of \$77,000.

Gary also reported we ended the month of November with \$882,407 in financial assets and ended the month of December with \$923,602, an improvement of 4.7%. We ended December 2021 with nearly \$1,065,000 in financial assets, down 13.3% from the prior year. We still have no financial liabilities and during the month of we ended December with more operating cash than November. Our operating cash totaled nearly \$105,000 versus November. We ended the year with 1.7 months' worth of cash on hand.

Reporting on investments, Jim Bennington said that from the end of 2021 to the end of 2022, we decreased the value of our securities a little over \$100,000. The good news is that our total investment account was down about 13.4%, while the Standard & Poor's result, which we compare the Roser result to, was down about 18.6%. So, we outperformed the S&P, which means that our securities would have performed in the top 5% of all securities last year compared to the market in general.

Looking at this year, we're up 1.8% this month from the end of the year. Even better, gold is up 10% this month from the beginning of the year. Our overall position as of the 23rd this month is 5% better than we started the year.

Details of the Financial Reports were sent to Council members prior to the meeting.

Review of Proposed 2023 Budget – David Cheshire

David presented the proposed Budget for Council members to review, a copy of which was sent out prior to the meeting. The comparison of 2022 actual income vs. expenses to the 2022 budget and the proposed 2023 numbers were reviewed and discussed.

Due to inflation's impact on staff salaries plus higher costs for utilities and campus maintenance, a \$20K decrease in the Dr. French legacy due to poor 2022 stock market performance, and only a 1% increase in Worship Contributions, a deficit of \$59K (later corrected to \$62K due to a calculation error) is projected for 2023. Since we budget to fully fund all important items and their expected timing, tend to come in below that.

David then made a **motion** that:

**The proposed 2023 operating budget be approved by Council and submitted at the Congregational Meeting on February 5th for their approval.
The motion was approved.**

Old Business

Campus Update – Alan Ward reported that he has received the plans from the pergola company and is working with the City of Anna Maria to make sure the revised footings are done correctly.

New Business

Cathy announced that Bev asked that if you who have submitted reports for the Annual Report you have until midnight tonight to get any final changes in to Bev. Otherwise, the print copy goes to press tomorrow. After a short discussion, David said that he would email Bev to check that leased property is the term used throughout the Annual Report.

Cathy requested that Council members consider changing Founder's Day from a Sunday in November to the first Sunday in January as we did this year. Council approved this on a trial basis for 2023. This will be on the Council Agenda for March to decide whether to make this a permanent change.

Cathy read a note from Nikkiah, our Office Administrator, thanking Council for the generous Christmas bonus.

Cathy reminded everyone of the Annual Meeting and light lunch following the second service on February 5.

Pastor Dirk led Council in a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

The next Council meeting is February 22nd at 7:00 on Zoom.