

RICHMOND HILL UNITED CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
October 9, 2019 7.30pm
Parlor

PRESENT: Carolyn Balant, Rev. James Ravenscroft, Jane Wedlock, Brandon Moore
Late: D.J. McCready, David Leyton-Brown

REGRETS: June Blanchette, Lyn May

The secretary confirmed the presence of a quorum, once the late members arrived. Approvals were held until quorum was confirmed. Jane Wedlock presiding and Carolyn Balant recording, the meeting began at 7:30 pm. in accordance with the monthly schedule.

1. **Land Acknowledgement** – by DJ, deferred to the end of the meeting due to delayed arrival.
2. **Devotion** – Jane spoke about Gratitude, with readings taken from the book Embers by Richard Wagamese.
3. **Approval of Agenda – as amended**

The agenda was accepted as circulated and amended.

M/S Carolyn Balant/ Brandon Moore

Carried

4. **Approval of the Minutes of September 11, 2019**

The Minutes of September 11, 2019 were accepted as amended

Amendment – ‘we believe we do have sufficient fundraising capacity should the need arise for refugee support’

M/S Brandon Moore/David Leyton-Brown

Carried

5. **Matters Arising**

- a. **Refugee Sponsorship Update**

RHUC is supporting 3 refugee sponsorship applications that are essentially paper sponsorships with family or other financial supports in place that minimizes obligations to RHUC while allowing us to play a supporting role.

DJ and Lyn met with the supporters of the first refugee applicant. They will transfer funds to RHUC monthly since the funds are required prior to receiving the refugee.

The second refugee is in dire straits. He is carrying a travel letter from the Canadian government and is concerned for his safety. A group in Toronto have raised funds to support this application.

The third refugee application also has family here who will raise the necessary funds.

Separate bank accounts will be setup by RHUC to receive and track disbursement of the funds. This will keep them separate and independent.

We are not anticipating any major financial commitments, however there may be a need for some help and support once they arrive in Canada.

Motion

'We accept responsibility for the third refugee application. In all three cases, we will set up a bank account to manage the funds'

M/S DJ McCready/Carolyn Balant

Carried

b. Updating Space Rental Policy

James has not yet had a chance to review the Space Rental Policy and draft any revisions. James has met a Realtor who may be able to assist us in setting reasonable rents. James is waiting to hear back.

6. Correspondence

The City of Richmond Hill sent notice for a public meeting on October 16 at 7:30. Review of the meeting materials indicates that the focus to be mainly regarding amendments to parking regulations in the village core. James will reach out to Ward 2 Councillor Tom Muench for additional information re implications for the church. It could be beneficial to have the manse included in the zoning of the church rather than being separately zoned residential.

7. Operations Team Update

Oct 3 Operations report was circulated to the Board.
Key control - Brandon handed over his church key to Carolyn.

8. Committee Updates

Finance

DJ handed out a one-page financial summary. The committee is working on the financial statements. These have been delayed due to a recent be-

reavement. Deb is reviewing envelope contributions. Separate deposits to be checked. Bequests continue to play an important role in our financial position.

Organ

The organ is in need of repair due to one support for a large pipe in the organ having collapsed. Casavant has submitted a very high quote and one year to fix.

Barry received a quote from another company for a temporary fix of the support system for \$3,000. The Finance committee recommends this approach.

Motion to spend \$3,000 on the repair of the organ from the Special Gifts Fund.

M/S Brandon Moore/David Leyton-Brown

Carried

Stewardship

RHUC's *Generous Spirit* Breakfast has been traditionally held in November, Leadership is uncertain at this point, but we are hoping to hold the breakfast in mid-November. Volunteers are needed. It was suggested that we may need new volunteers. Jane to follow up with Nancy, Penny, Ian Wilgus, etc.

9. MAP Pilot Team - Update

a. Mission Action Business Plan Team

Building Condition Assessment Presentation – Tues Oct 15 @ 6pm

The final FCAPX report was received. There will be a presentation on Tuesday, October 15 at 6 pm. There was discussion regarding who should attend. It was agreed that the Mission Action Business Plan Team, the Board and Operations Committee would be invited to attend.

b. Leadership and Congregational Development Forum

There is concern about the challenges related to finding people willing to take leadership positions. We are proposing a forum in January.

c. Communications

A Survey Monkey was sent out regarding a new name for the CD building that would be more appealing to the broader community. Only 4 responses so far, please answer if you have not yet.

A survey on the website was sent out to larger group with the link to be posted in RHUOnline.

RHUConline is also set to be reorganized. A request was sent out for a new name but only 2 responses were received. A request will be made again on Sunday.

Howie from our Communications Team is improving our social media presence – reducing facebook accounts from 3 to 2. We are still challenged by people posting to the unofficial rather than official RHUC website out of habit.

d. Concert Series

An inter-cultural concert series with 3 concerts is being planned. The UCC has approved a \$3,000 grant and there is the potential for a matching grant from the City of Richmond Hill - applications are due Nov 1. We are anticipating \$1000 from ticket sales. The Board approves applying for grant. A separate bank account is not required.

10. Minister's Report

Community Welcome Sunday was held on September 29. Overall it was a good event. About 20 new people attended. There was discussion about frequency of this type of event – and determined a semi-annual event was probably the best.

James has been busy with pastoral care as several parents of members have recently passed away.

There have been some new members that have come outside of the Welcome Sunday. James has had requests for Baptism.

James is looking into having a Games night. It was originally scheduled Sat Oct 19 but needs to be organized. James is now looking at a date in early November.

11. Shining Waters Regional Update

A day long gathering for elected members of the region was held on September 12th and James attended. The event was to share with representatives information about the new structure of Regional Councils David also spoke last week to the UCW about the new structure.

David will continue to inform us about the events and happenings in the region.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn

M/S Brandon Moore/David Leyton-Brown

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 10:30.p.m.

Next Meeting of Council:

The next meeting will be on November 13, 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Parlour


Jane Wedlock, Chair


Carolyn Balant, Secretary