

Board of Trustees Minutes July 14, 2009

Present: Philip Conover, Bill Fox, Reverend Tricia Brennan, Rory McGregor, Kathy Farrell, Julie Armstrong, Wilbur Edwards, Jack Armstrong (for AIM update portion only)

AIM Update provided by Jack Armstrong Walls for foundation poured yesterday. Began working on wall abutting vestry. Will need change order to deal w/ rocks under foundation. Contractor will pour cement in among the rocks and shore up a wall. Change order approximately \$10,000, funded out of contingency. Also, there was a previous change order that, by allowing DiGando to use vestry, brought cost down \$3,000. So there is a net increase of \$7,000. Effect is that floor space is reduced by 20 inches; shouldn't be much impact. No impact on 2nd floor.

Linda Ellsmore, who monitors the state of the vestry, noted its disrepair and requested that Rick Dumont communicate that we should not use the vestry for any meetings. There is also a problem with the sanctuary it currently has an exit at only 1 end; problem if fire occurs. The intent is to have a back exit by time services start. Jack advised the Board to encourage use of Congregational space as well as alternate spaces. Water should be back in a few weeks. Jack will check on when can expect gas to return. Front steps will redone soon. May need to bring railings up to code. So if redone in manner that looks different, Jack may need to go back to Historical Commission. Even though rails are not that old, Jack advocated informing the Historical Commission to maintain a positive relationship.

The Board approved discontinued use of both the sanctuary and vestry until services restart in September. Tricia will inform a member of the women's 12-step group.

Janet is not booking any renters now; she will not book them for fall either.

Schedule for DiGando completion 1st week in December. Anything we can do to allow them to go faster is in our interests.

The contractor is also looking at column supports; may want to better support columns. Based on our budget, and what is left in contingency budget, may want to do something to make the columns more secure. George also suggested digging up concrete in the Harry Potter room, laying drain to prevent flooding.

Authorizations requested by Jack Armstrong

1. Authorization of \$1,082,114.00 for construction costs -already approved at June meeting.
2. Authorization of \$2,800 for additional architectural expenses - needed to update drawings to bring up to new state code, plus accommodate new wall and foundation work.
3. Authorization of \$5,000 for engineering test services to be provided by Briggs Engineering - Briggs is very good; a direct expense to us, their recommendation re: crushed stone to DiGando enabled work to continue through the rainy period. Both 2 & 3 are additional, but DiGando included some duplicate costs, which can be removed. Also, may be able to reduce some insurance costs; will check w/ Tom Yeransian.

Approval of requests #2 and #3 moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

4. \$30,000 for furnishings. Concern that don't know what other surprises we will have; don't know

if will actually have this money. Thought to authorize, but not spend it any earlier than we need to. #4 moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

Minister's report Tricia noted congregation has stress over jobs, economy. She has some concerns over operating budget.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Fox provided an AIM project expense update as of end of June. Note expenses went up from \$111,644 to \$134K between end of June and the current July date.

Bridge loan need to resolve language and timing. In progress, on target.

Bill Fox update on last year's pledges Pam working on it, Bill not aware of outcome yet. \$22k shortfall from pledge income.

Committee Chairs Report Wilbur Edwards provided minutes from June meeting.

Presentation at Chairs meeting by Peter Raskin on managing RE committee by portfolio approach. Peter also set up Yahoo group for RE. Board agreed to try the Yahoo group concept; can revisit at some point to see how we like it. Julie will send out invitations.

Bean Supper Philip spoke w/ Ken Zaniewski. This year, we will not invite public and not charge, so we can cook food at home. Don't know if gas service will be restored by bean supper time or not. If no gas, we will have to bring in pots to stay warm. Ken and Tricia will contact the Congregational Church to invite them also.

Omnipoint have requested another year of relationship w/ them. Philip has asked Valerie to stay at point person for Omnipoint. Has not heard from her yet.

Board schedule 2nd Wed. of month, 7:15. Philip to e-mail Janet.

Board retreat review mission statement, goals, and covenant. Aim for the morning of Saturday, August 8. Philip will get back to the Board with start time and location.