

Minutes of December 5, 2023 Coordinating Council Meeting

Attending: Steve Leapley, Joel Morrison, Bill Colagrande, Bill Dowling, Brad Hardin, Kathy Avery, Thom Reeves, John Van Camp, Judy Houston, John Spitzer, Jan Simon, Eileen Leapley

Meeting began at 9:35 a.m.

Chalice was lit, opening words were spoken

Check-in was done.

Bill Colagrande was welcomed as the new Social Activities Team Leader. Bill already has some ideas for activities. Eileen offered to meet with him to discuss activities that have been done in the past. Kathy will meet with him to discuss ideas as well.

Discussion was held regarding again offering a Zoom option for Coordinating Council meetings. Options are: we can change the location of the meetings to Asta Linder House, where we have access to Zoom, or, if someone funds the Owl device, we can continue to hold the meetings in the Waters Hall conference room.

Team Report Discussions -

Joel reported that the Finance Committee is working on training the stewards, hosts, etc. The January and February meetings are locked in.

The 2024-2025 budget is being prepared, will go to the Fiscal Team, and then to the Board.

Jan Simon reported that, as she is the new volunteer Music Director, Rev. Amy suggested that she may want to attend Coordinating Council meetings.

Steve gave an update on the new signs. They will be installed on Thursday morning, and he needs a lot of helpers.

Judy discussed the need for new ways of communication to get word out about our activities. If the UUA grant is approved to pay for hiring a social media expert, that will be a big step in the right direction.

John reported on goings-on in the Social Justice team, including the monthly Social Justice Socials. There is an upcoming one on December 13th.

The Right to Read grant from the UUA was approved for \$8,700.

A website is being developed for the Social Justice Alliance and the Right to Read program.

Floridians for Democracy would like our Right to Read Festival to be showcased in its February program.

John discussed Envisioning Our Future – where does UUCOV want to be in 25 years?

Are there plans to go forward with our Strategic Plan?

John said there needs to be a project after the Right to Read Festival, in order for Social Justice to maintain its momentum. This is our opportunity to show the community that we live our values.

Steve discussed the ever-present need for volunteers.

Kathy - discussed a Human Library. Joel mentioned that we used to do this.

Socrates Café and the mahjong group have started again. A presentation by a librarian from the Sarasota County Libraries will be held on January 9th. Build Your Own Theology classes are starting again; Spiritual Practices classes will start again soon.

John Van Camp offered to lead a series of Great Decisions classes.

Brad said that he and Sal Salorenzo own many Great Courses DVDs, and they offered to purchase additional ones.

Steve gave an update on the easement situation, and parents parking in our field several times a month. Discussion was held regarding whether we should charge IVMS for parking at these times. We'd like to be a good neighbor, but there will be costs involved in maintaining the grass.

It was agreed that UUCOV should charge a set amount per year for maintain the grassy field that is being used for parking, rather than on a per-event basis. Steve will determine what the set amount should be, based on the cost of maintaining the field.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Leapley