

Minutes of Coordinating Council Meeting

November 5, 2024

In attendance:

Marcia Smith Joel Morrison Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw Thom Reeves Donna Jewett John Van Camp
Eileen Leapley

Meeting began at 9:35 a.m.

Chalice was lit, opening words were sung, led by Marcia.

Two very informative reports were sent in, by Annie Harrison of Membership and Judy Houston of Communications.

Donna discussed her report for the Green Sanctuary/Grounds Team. The Transitions Venice group donated \$2500 to UUCOV for improvements of the grounds. Donna would like to see more programs presented that are educational in nature, such as how to grow an edible garden, composting, etc. The programs should be promoted to the community as well as to UUCOV members.

We also need to promote Meatless Mondays to the community, as this event and others like it may encourage new members to join us.

Marcia specifically wanted to thank Judy for compiling the list of programs that UUCOV has presented in the past. We really need to come up with interesting events, and we need to market them aggressively, if we want to attract new members. We need to make sure we include Eddie Keffel and Judy Houston when we plan events, as they are in charge of publicizing them to the community.

John wants to determine the direction the Social Justice Team should take. He will lead a meeting after this coming Sunday's service, to call for ideas from the congregation. With Election Day upon us, Social Justice is at a crucial juncture now. John needs volunteers with new ideas for his team, as do all the teams.

We used to have "First Sunday of the Month" meetings after the service, and it was decided to bring to the Board our intention to bring back those meetings. Besides keeping people involved in what the various teams are doing, it's a good way of recruiting new volunteers.

Marcia updated us on landscaping design for the outside seating area and the Garden of Remembrance. The Lynch family indicated its desire to donate more funds, and we need to decide on the best way to use them.

AEDs have been purchased and installed. We now need a number of people to be trained in how to use them. Sarasota Memorial Hospital - Venice will conduct training sessions. Team leaders should be trained, as should others in the congregation. Call 941-261-7011 to sign up.

The Voter Challenge was discussed. John Van Camp will ask Jean Barlow to make calls to people to find out whether they voted. Marcia offered to help her.

Donna Jewett will check into renting Bird Bay for a holiday party. Another choice might be Qmmunity.

Amy would like the team leaders to think about ideas for classes or programs appropriate for our teams. Examples were classes in technology, avoiding scams, etc. Marcia will call Nathan Gadreau to set up an online security class. John mentioned that we might bring back the Great Discussions programs.

Travel groups were discussed. Many of our congregants participated in fundraising trips previously. Rev. Amy will talk to a UU church in St. Pete who is organizing a trip to Greece; perhaps we can join up with them.

Discussion was held about searching again for a choir director. Instead of spending money to conduct another search, perhaps we should go through the UUA, as well as asking around locally. Rev. Amy suggested that we advertise for new choir members; we may attract someone with choir director experience this way. Perhaps John Spitzer can talk to members of Venice Chorale. Marcia will talk to John.

We need a Social Activities team leader or co-leaders.

Digital promotion of UUCOV on the Venice Main Street website would benefit us in attracting visitors. Eileen will ask Eddie to check into adding UUCOV to the Venice Main Street website. She will notify Judy Houston about it as well.

Donna will check with Bird Bay about renting the space for the holiday party.

Roxcy is inviting anyone who has no plans for Thanksgiving Day to join her at her house.

Rev. Amy is going to make the Sanctuary available tomorrow from 1 – 2 p.m., if anyone needs comfort or celebration after the election. She will do it probably again on Saturday.

John brought up the propriety of inviting people to UUCOV at the Democratic Club's Liberal Libations meetings. If we had UUCOV business cards made up to hand out to prospective members, that would be helpful. Rev. Amy volunteered to create and print cards with UUCOV's address and phone number.

Next meeting is Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Leapley

