

Minutes of Coordinating Council Meeting

February 4, 2025

In attendance:

Marcia Smith Thom Reeves Judy Houston Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw Donna Jewett
Joel Morrison Brad Hardin Bill Dowling Eileen Leapley Wayne Loosigian

Meeting began at 9:35 a.m.

Chalice was lit, opening words were spoken by Rev. Amy.

Auction debriefing – Wayne Loosigian –

Wayne reported that the gross amount collected was \$12,500. Net amount was \$11,800. In Wayne's opinion, we had too many items, especially on the silent auction. There were 88 items in the silent auction; fourteen of them were not bid on. The silent auction brought in just under \$4,000. The average winning bid was about \$54. The live auction had 16 items; \$6,885 was collected, with the average winning bid \$459. One live auction item was not bid on. There were ten gift baskets raffled off, which brought in \$400 total. Wayne would eliminate the gift basket raffle. He'd like to increase the live auction and reduce the silent auction, which would mainly consist of gift cards to restaurants.

Wayne raised the question of whether we should have another auction next year, or should we wait two years. When he asked various people, most said we should have one next year, but in February, to allow more people to return from the north. Wayne is considering Friday, Feb. 20th, with a live auction from 4:30 to 6:30, then an intermission, then continue the live auction. Complicated items will be auctioned early to allow time if the winner wants to pay the same evening.

To prevent stress at checkout, winners will be encouraged to come to church on Sunday morning to pay for and collect their items. Perhaps we can have one credit card hot spot at the end of the auction, for non-members of the congregation who won't return on Sunday. Credit card payers will be told there more than likely will be a long wait.

Another idea was a 50-50 raffle, and Rev. Amy suggested selling \$100 tickets to "anywhere in the world you want to go."

Wayne congratulated everyone on his team, and Wayne was congratulated on leading an extremely successful auction.

Reports from Teams were emailed to Marcia.

Communications -

Linda Underwood sent Marcia an email concerning how can we do a better job of communicating. At the shareholders meetings, several people commented that we need to educate our congregants on where to learn about events and news. Ayleen's midmonth email is an excellent addition.

Donna remarked that the Meatless Monday events have been a very good way to get new people involved in UUCOV. Donna would like to market it to the outside community.

She would also like to educate people, both at UUCOV and in the community about our composting efforts. She knows someone who could present a composting class. Marcia suggested that recycling information also be taught at the composting class.

The question was raised about how we determine suitability of events. We don't want people giving programs on our campus in order to advertise their own business.

We've been having problems with the marketing of our events; often they are not advertised, and when they are cancelled no one is notified. It was decided that any events must always be scheduled through Ayleen. She will put them on our uucof.org and our Breeze calendars.

Bill Reynolds has been putting the signs on the message board. Perhaps we should look into the way the sign is handled; we could do a better job of advertising our events with our sign.

Peace Pole purchase and installation -

Marianne Koerner would like to do a presentation at UUCOV about the need for a Peace Pole. Bill thinks it would cost approximately \$200 for a basic, 5-foot pole. There are two others in the Venice area. Discussion was held regarding where to place the pole. We would hold a dedication ceremony. Judy suggested we invite Blue Lotus and others who currently have peace poles in the area.

After discussion, the C.C. agreed that the pole should be placed in the newly-landscaped garden, possibly near the side entrance to the sanctuary. A collection could be taken up to fund the pole, so that the congregation has a vested interest in it.

This month's concert fundraiser -

The Passerine concert will be held on Saturday, February 15th from 4-6 p.m. It needs to be aggressively advertised. Rev. Amy ordered a banner which will be placed on the entrance at Edmondson. It's been advertised on Facebook, in the Venice Gondolier, and on Venice MainStreet.

Landscape design update –

The landscape design is complete, and is beautiful. Rev. Amy would really like a water feature. Perhaps this can be done in the future. The plan is to get four iron benches, two in the Lynch Garden and two closer to the side of the lanai. Discussion was held about getting recycled benches, which are not expensive. It was decided that since we've been using iron benches, we shouldn't introduce recycled benches.

Trip Hazard on Sanctuary Patio –

After discussion, it was decided not to grind any uneven pavers down further at this time. It was a big expense, and doesn't guarantee that people won't trip anyway.

Waters Hall beautification; new plantings; library –

Pat W. donated the quilt she won at the auction for the wall over the couch in the living room. Marcia discussed painting the “dining” room, and changing some of the art on the walls.

The overwhelmed state of the library was discussed. Books written by UUCOV authors, with Unitarian topics should be housed in the library. The Little Free Library should be for works of fiction. The condition of the whole living room needs to be addressed. Marcia will talk with Moe, and perhaps form a three-person committee to clean up the room.

A TV monitor in the “dining” room would be beneficial, as that room fits more people, and it would have Zoom capability.

Social Justice groups –

Brad discussed the MLK parade; UUCOV members participated and it was successful. Rich and Serena Cannarelli are planning a program about separation of church and state and Christian Nationalism. Amanda Stewart will be conducting a Zoom meeting about Christian Nationalism at Naar Hall in the Venice United Church of Christ. The movie “Bad Faith” will be shown in our sanctuary. Thom will be away, so Eddie will be asked to man the A/V booth.

Marcia would like us all to be thinking about refreshing our teams. Perhaps we can focus on one team each Sunday, do a presentation about what our team does, and stir up interest in new members joining the teams.

Bill mentioned that the lanai is looking messy again. The sliding doors could perhaps be opened more, to allow for better flow of people. We’ll open the sliders this Sunday and see if it works out.

There is a dedicated bench to John and Barbara Morton, near the bike rack, that is in disrepair. We might be able to use the funds that had been allotted in perpetuity for the upkeep of that bench to purchase a new one and place it with the others in the garden.

Meeting ended at 10:55 a.m.

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 4th, 9:30 a.m.

Submitted by
Eileen Leapley