



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME

Council Board Meeting – Minutes

January 24, 2019

4:00-6:10 p.m.

Presiding: Elizabeth Barbieri, Board President

Present:

- *District Council Presidents:* Dan Asahl, Annette Bligh, Jeff Bunten, Ken Gebken, Bob Hook, Carole Johnson, Wes Karna, Ed McCarthy, Phil Schwab, Ray Suda
- *Members at Large:* John Fallah, John Luth, Steve Polk, Dan Schlafly, Jim Wilson
- *Ex Officio members:* Rev. James Cormack, Dave Winslett
- *SVDP staff:* John Foppe, Gena Bast, Ryan Carney, Denise Chachere, Debra Downey, Mike Goering, John Heithaus, John Walters
- *Guests:* Diane Marshak

Absent: Judy Belford, Derek Collins, Ellen Harshmann, Rhae Yancey

Quorum: Yes

1. Opening Prayer

Fr. James Cormack led the opening prayer.

2. Spiritual Reflection / Mission Moment

John Foppe led a discussion on “Monday’s Army.” Staff at one of the Thrift Stores shows how they see the face of Christ in an elderly gentleman who visits the store weekly, demonstrating listening, empathy, compassion, dignity, and joy.

3. Review of Agenda / Any Other Business

No additions

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Approval

The Board approved the previous meeting minutes.

5. Treasurer's Report – Ed McCarthy and Debra Downey

a) FY18 Audit – report

The independent auditor report from Conner Ash, PC found that the Archdiocesan Council's financial statements are stated fairly and in accordance with accepted accounting principles.

b) Q1 Financials review

This was a very strong quarter in all departments, except investments, which followed a downturn in the market during the quarter.

There was a great deal of discussion on the Balance Sheet and Income Statement. An operating loss in the first quarter was due in part to an increased demand for Vincentian Services. There is adequate funding to meet program needs. There was a request to add a budget column to the Treasurer's report. A seemingly large balance of unrestricted net assets is monitored regularly. The Operating Reserve Ratio is in an acceptable range but approaching the cautionary yellow level. Two adjustments were posted out of period, having a net impact of just over \$1,000. One is a \$2,131 understatement of Cost of Goods Sold. The second is an overstatement of professional fees of \$3,250.

c) IT Audit – report

The audit involved testing at the Council office plus a visit to every Thrift Store. The Staff is following up on various recommendations that resulted from the audit. E-mail communications will be encrypted in the future.

6. Executive Director's Report – John Foppe

a) Q1 Strategic Progress

John Foppe highlighted a long list of ongoing accomplishments. There is great, exciting work under way.

b) Strategic Initiatives Taskforce – update

The taskforce is making good progress with a process to evaluate and prioritize proposed initiatives for Board Designated Strategic Initiative funds.

There was discussion about housing, which involves a spectrum of issues. Guest speakers to the taskforce are helping to shed light on the situation. Homelessness is an issue in the Districts, including efforts to help people from becoming homeless. There will be a schedule for releasing the funds, although the approach

may be slow and steady. Committees within this taskforce include Housing, Vincentian Services, and Stores.

7. Development Report – Ryan Carney

a) Q1 report

The last quarter was very good in Development, raising \$300,000 above the budget target. The Staff continues to develop major contributors.

b) Board Packet: Annual appeal, Conflict of Interest, Responsibilities and Expectations

About 60% of the Board contributes to the SVDP Council. The goal is to have 100% participation, even if someone can contribute only a little.

The Board members and others are asked to consider a new Legacy Society, in which SVDP can be added to an individual's retirement account.

REQUEST: Please send the completed packet material in the stamped, self-addressed envelope to Ryan Carney by February 15. Ryan will follow up with an e-mail in the next couple weeks.

8. Vincentian Services Report – John Heithaus

a) St. Anthony of Padua – report

The St. Anthony of Padua Food Pantry will still operate with its good works, but it will not use the SVDP name and therefore be free of the SVDP reporting and governance. The pantry has been particularly good in maintaining its volunteer network and assisting neighbors in need.

b) Spring Assembly – update

The keynote speaker, Bishop Donald J. Hying, will provide a good opportunity to focus on spirituality and friendship. All Vincentians are invited.

HOLD THE DATE: Saturday, March 23, 2019, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at St. Louis University High School, 4970 Oakland Avenue. Mass, breakfast, and lunch are included. The event is free.

9. Stores Report – John Walters

a) New Associate Director of Stores, Mike Goering

Mike has many years of experience in retail and corporate operations. He is excited to be supporting the awesome mission at St. Vincent de Paul.

b) Dellwood Store – update

This store is viable despite past operating issues. It can be adequately staffed and make money. Ongoing efforts are under way to rebuild the staff and implement other changes in support of a phased-in reopening beginning in early February.

Stores overall are very healthy, with sales up 13.2% store-for-store. The Creve Coeur Store is doing very well, especially considering it is in its first year. The staff across all stores is very dedicated. Volunteers are always welcome.

10. Voice of the Poor Report – Steve Polk

a) New Chairperson, Diane Marshak

Diane was introduced as the new Chair. She is looking for ways to change the system and help the poor.

b) 2019 Legislative Priorities

Advocacy efforts are mostly generic so far, with very few bills in the Missouri legislature that directly address the needs. This will be a growing effort to educate Vincentians and find ways to provide a voice for the poor.

APPROVED: The Board approved the Voice of the Poor Committee Recommendations on 2019 Legislative Priorities and Related Works of Interest.

11. Human Resources – Denise Chachere

a) EEO Diversity Report

The organization is in a good overall situation as far as diversity. There was a request to see a breakdown by management versus unskilled workers. That will be provided, although a relatively small focus group would not be statistically relevant.

b) Executive Session

The Board entered an Executive Session to review the performance and salary of the Executive Director, John Foppe. The Board voted to give John a salary increase.

12. Other Business

Former Board member Maggie McKay is in our prayers following a very serious health issue coupled with the birth of a healthy child.

There was a thank you message for the funeral funds provided for Adelaide Grace.

13. Closing Prayer

Fr. James Cormack led the closing prayer.

Submitted by John Luth
SVDP Council Secretary