



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME

Council Board Meeting – Minutes

April 25, 2019

4:00-6:05 p.m.

Presiding: Elizabeth Barbieri, Board President

Present:

- *District Council Presidents:* Dan Asahl, Judy Belford, Annette Bligh, Jeff Bunten, Ken Gebken, Bob Hook, Carole Johnson, Ed McCarthy, Phil Schwab, Ray Suda
- *Members at Large:* Ellen Harshmann, John Luth, Steve Polk, Jim Wilson, Rhae Yancey
- *Ex Officio members:* Rev. James Cormack
- *SVdP staff:* John Foppe, Gena Bast, Ryan Carney, Denise Chachere, Debra Downey, Mike Goering, John Heithaus, John Walters
- *Guests:* David Schopp (St. Anselm)

Absent: Wes Karna, Derek Collins, John Fallah, Dan Schlafly, Dave Winslett

Quorum: Yes

1. Opening Prayer

Fr. James Cormack led the opening prayer.

2. Spiritual Reflection / Mission Moment

John Heithaus shared an example of how a referral program can help a neighbor in need. One individual was overwhelmed with two jobs, four kids, and finding herself behind on the rent. SVdP helped with the rent, food, and a car. A referral to Prosperity Connection helped this person become self-sufficient. Now she is doing much better as far as her employment, finances, and state of mind. Working together, we can help bring systemic change with these referrals.

3. Review of Agenda / Any Other Business

There were two additions to the agenda, for the district presidents, included in Other Business.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Approval

The Board approved the previous meeting minutes.

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

a) Q2 Financials – review

The Council continues to do well financially at six months into FY19. The \$1.38 million negative Operating Income YTD is making good progress toward the planned deficit, with \$1.7 million going toward Program Services. Conference vouchers continue to increase in volume and value. The remaining Board Designated Funding balance is \$7.9 million.

MOTION: The Board approved the Financial report.

b) Council Office lease renewal – approval

MOTION: The Board approved a renewal of the lease for the Council office located at 1310 Papin Street, St. Louis, MO 63103.

c) 2020 Convention event budget – approval

MOTION: The Board approved a proposed budget of \$105,644 to be drawn from the Board Designated Strategic Initiative Fund throughout FY19 and FY20 to host the National 175th Anniversary National Convention.

6. Executive Director's Report – John Foppe

a) Q2 Strategic Progress – report

John reviewed numerous successes from his written report. A notable highlight was the first annual all District Vincentian Assembly. This was a very successful day of formation and information, with 550 Vincentians participating and Bishop Hying of Gary, Indiana speaking. Future assemblies will likely be in a location that can accommodate breakout sessions for the districts.

Vincentians were cautioned to be careful about selecting banking services that come with fees. Price offerings vary.

b) Strategic Initiatives Taskforce recommendation – approval

Through various listening sessions, the Taskforce heard that conferences and districts are looking for more help, not more work. Seven initiatives impact recruitment, referrals, information availability, marketing, store employee engagement, and the purchase of a multi-use facility. The facility, in Cool Valley, would be used for warehousing, donation processing, and by-the-pound retail.

There was a great deal of discussion on the proposed facility. Additional warehousing and a more central location will help provide neighbors in need better quality and selection, in support of the expanding conference voucher program. The by-the-pound business case was based on information from SVdP in Madison, Wisconsin plus experience with the Christy Store. Specific terms of the proposed purchase, including the sale price, have not been finalized. Owning the property instead of leasing it will help avoid considerable annual property tax. There was a question of whether this Capital investment was too large, whether the bequest would be better spent directly on operational needs. Further discussion indicated this facility would help fund the various initiatives that directly support the conferences and districts. The Council helps the conferences serve the poor.

There was a request that when looking at future store sites, consideration be given to Jefferson County and perhaps an additional site in St. Charles County. The Council has been careful not to grow the Stores program too quickly.

There was discussion on several of the other initiatives. Referral partnerships can help put more attention on housing. A new software system, presently piloted by five conferences, can be more efficient for tracking home visits and generating Conference Activity Reports. The SVdP 175th Anniversary Year can be a great opportunity to attract more Vincentians and build excitement.

MOTION: The Board approved the release of \$2.5 million from Board Designated – Strategic Initiative Funds over the course of the next three years, to fund the approved initiatives, and authorize the Executive Director and Finance Committee to execute the “Strategic Needs and Initiatives Taskforce Recommendation,” dated April 2019, in accordance with the Board Delegation of Authority policy.

7. Development Report – Ryan Carney

a) Gift Acceptance Policy revision – approval

An individual looking to give a \$300,000 bequest had determined that SVdP was the best St. Louis organization to help the poor, given the conferences and governance structures.

It was noted that with revisions to the Gift Acceptance Policy, any future Real Estate gift would require considerable due diligence from the Finance Committee. This revision to the policy merely provides an option, not a commitment to accept such gifts.

MOTION: The Board approved an update to the Gift Acceptance Policy, dated April 25, 2019.

8. Vincentian Services report – John Heithaus

a) St. Anthony of Padua – update

Sr. Connie Probst, who helped run the St. Anthony of Padua Food Pantry, has been reassigned. The SVdP Council is helping those involved in its operation, including Vincentians and the parish, take a thoughtful approach for the best way to transition the pantry into as separate entity. The process involves a look at the community needs, volunteers, legal considerations, and other factors.

b) Family Structure and Poverty event

W. Bradford Wilcox will provide a community discussion on single parent families, titled “Family Structure, Poverty, & The Way Forward.”

HOLD THE DATE: Saturday, September 14, 2019, 8:00-12:30, at the St. Louis University Busch Center

9. Voice of the Poor Report

a) Poverty Simulation

John Foppe said the Voice of the Poor Committee will be sponsoring this eye-opening event. Details will appear in the May Vincentian newsletter.

HOLD THE DATE: Tuesday, June 4, 2019, 7:00 p.m., at Incarnate Word

10. Other Business

a) District president request – Southwest District

Jeff Bunten requested funds based on a cashflow statement in support of St. Paul (Fenton).

MOTION: The district presidents authorized \$20,000 for the Southwest District.

b) District president request – North Central District

Carole Johnson requested funds. This newest district was formed in October, and six of the twelve conferences have requested funds.

MOTION: The district presidents authorized \$20,000 for the North Central District.

11. Human Resources – Denise Chachere

a) Executive Session

The Board entered an Executive Session to discuss the compensation package for the Executive Director, John Foppe. The Board voted to discontinue the Housing Allowance and begin an annual Automobile Allowance with various stipulations. This change was initiated at John's request, in part to help him spend more time with his family.

12. Closing Prayer

Fr. James Cormack led the closing prayer.

Submitted by John Luth
SVdP Council Secretary