



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME

Council Board Meeting – Minutes

January 28, 2021

4:00-6:30 p.m.

All attended via teleconference.

Presiding: Elizabeth Barbieri, President

Present:

- *District Council Presidents:* Dan Asahl, Jeanette Aubuchon, Judy Belford, Bill Blow, Jeff Bunten, Bruce Gallion, Ken Gebken, Carole Johnson, Wes Karna, Ray Suda
- *Members at Large:* John Fallah, Ellen Harshmann, Michael Kehoe, John Luth, Laurie Phillips, Bernie Sammons, Dan Schlafly, Phil Schwab, Rhae Yancey
- *Ex Officio members:* John Foppe, Fr. Mark Pranaitis, Dave Winslett
- *SVdP staff:* Gena Bast, Ryan Carney, Denise Chachere, Debra Downey, Mike Goering, Julie Komanetsky, Barry Schoedel, John Walters

Absent: Ernestine Jackson

Guest: Dianne Marshak

Quorum: Yes

1. Opening Prayer

Elizabeth Barbieri led the opening prayer.

Fr. Mark Pranaitis provided reflection on our approach to prayer. He gave examples of those anxiously looking forward, such as a child awaiting the arrival of beloved family or a faithful pet awaiting their favorite person's return.

2. Review of Agenda/Any Other Business

The Development report was advanced in the agenda.

3. Secretary's Report – John Luth

The Council office is taking steps to move some Board material on-line. Google Workspace can provide a handy way to find previous information, such as minutes, hand-outs, committee charters, and Board resolutions.

- a) Minutes of Previous Meeting – approval

The Board approved the previous meeting minutes.

4. Development Report – Ryan Carney

- a) Board Member Annual Appeal and Packet – review

Each Board member has been sent a packet of information. They are asked to provide information and acknowledgement on various subjects. These include:

- Board of Director Annual Campaign & Support: The goal is 100% participation, regardless of amount. The campaign also includes an effort to grow a network of major donors, those who have the capacity to give \$5,000 or more.
- Board Matrix of various skills, experience, and interests
- Board Member Job Description / Performance Expectations
- Conflict of Interest policy and questionnaire

Each Board member is asked to fill out the appropriate information, sign, and date as indicated. The information should be returned to Steve Poppe in the Council office, either electronically or by US mail.

Thanks to Ryan for his excellent work in the Development program for this Council. Best wishes to him in his future role working for the National Council.

Ryan wanted to thank John Foppe in particular for the relationships that John has fostered with donors and benefactors, plus all that Ryan has learned from John.

5. Treasurer's Report – Phil Schwab/Debra Downey

- a) FY2021 Q1 Financial Update

Debra provided highlights from several reports. The Council did fabulously well financially in Q1. Operational expenditures are under budget by \$53,000, excluding Program Services spending. The \$1 million loan from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was forgiven. Development income was up 40% from the prior year. Stores are on target with a stretch goal. There is renewed attention on controlling spend.

The Board approved the Q1 Financial report.

- b) FY2021 Q1 Program Spending Update

The Q1 spend for Program Services was over the Q1 budget by \$251,752. A good portion of this amount was related to a \$200,000 CARES Act award that was

received in October. The budget related to client expenses will be restated. There is a significantly increased need for help with housing, utilities, and food.

c) Board Directed Funds (BDF) spend rate

In FY2021 Q1, \$659,832 of BDF has been spent. At the present rate, the BDF could run out within two years. The income in this fund is highly variable and uncertain. Since 2016, the BDF has added just over \$12 million, but almost half of that amount came in 2018 alone. The need in 2020-2021 has been unprecedented. The District Presidents will be discussing ways to plan for appropriate spend rates going forward.

d) Servware funding

The system presently has a 15-20 percent adoption rate, on track with the original project goals. Some conferences are probably having challenges in that they aren't meeting in person these days. There could also be challenges in areas with limited internet coverage. The project has provided training to 53 conferences. There is a consultant available for those who would like help, plus each District has a liaison. There may eventually be interest in finding creative ways to incentivize conferences that are not adopting the system.

RESOLUTION: The Board approved an additional \$5,000 allocation from the Strategic Initiative budget to perform recommended Servware security testing.

6. Spiritual Advisor – Elizabeth

The Board voted in support of the appointment for Fr. Mark Pranaitis to become the new Spiritual Advisor.

7. Executive Director's Report – John Foppe

a) FY2021 Q1 Strategic Progress – report

John provided highlights to a written report. He offered a shout out to those who are bringing success in various programs. Development is going very well. The Stores have grown 9% over the prior year. The PPP loan forgiveness is a significant achievement. This has been a busy quarter with a good start in the Rapid Rehousing Pilot Program with the St. Patrick Center. There have been over 500 COVID-related support cases and many effective adjustments to address COVID concerns. The Council celebrated the 175th Anniversary with a Mass at the Old Cathedral, birthplace of the Society in the USA. Marketing & Communications have provided a lot of very good activity. There is a lot to do yet this year, but the Council is off to a very good start.

b) National convention in 2023

Dave Barringer at the National Council recently asked if the St. Louis Council would be willing to host the National convention in 2023. The National Council could save expense if the event were held locally instead of in Phoenix. The cost for a local event would be \$50,000 or more. The St. Louis Council's communication team has a lot of material already developed from the prior event, which was canceled due to the pandemic. The work would involve hosting, planning, and staffing various roles before and during the event. A commitment would be requested of Board members to help chair and steer the event.

It was decided to seek additional information and defer this decision to the coming week or two.

8. Governance Committee report - John Luth

a) Board Development Training, February, 20 – reminder

John reminded the Board about this upcoming virtual event. Periodic training and development are good for the Board, especially considering that there is regular turnover. Dave Winslett has agreed to review Board member roles and responsibilities. There will be education on various financial aspects, looking at the big picture, BDF, hoarding, spending rates, and the forecast looking ahead.

Hold the date: The development session will be on Saturday, February 20, 2021, 9 a.m. to noon.

9. Stores Committee report – Carole Johnson / John Walters

Carole provided a written report from the committee. The committee appreciates input from Board members as the committee helps to provide advice, support, and policy recommendations with regard to the Stores operations. Value stream mapping of the voucher process is under way. The committee has discussed COVID protocols, volunteer recruitment, and other subjects.

John stated that COVID protocols are taken very seriously. There have been significant investments in protective equipment and cleaning, along with various process changes. The need is very strong. The team is working very hard, and the performance is strong. Marketing is very effective. Thanks to the entire team for what they are doing to help neighbors in need.

10. Disaster Committee report – Annette Bligh

This was a written report.

11. Voice of the Poor – Dianne Marshak

a) Charter revision – approval

The changes include an update to the Mission, to break the cycle of poverty by listening to neighbors. Advocacy will be consistent with Catholic values. The stated goals and objectives are more in line with the committee's direction.

RESOLUTION: The Board approved a revision to the Voice of the Poor Committee Charter.

b) Legislative priorities – approval

The 2021 priorities include five areas. Titles have been updated. The section on intact families provides honor and support for all neighbors in need, regardless of family structure. The subject of fair, affordable credit continues to be researched, and the committee will come to the Board if there is a decision to be made.

The Board approved the Voice of the Poor Committee's 2021 Priorities, Goals, and Related Works of Interest.

12. Other Business

None.

13. Executive Session – Denise Chachere

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

14. Closing Prayer

Fr. Mark Pranaitis led the closing prayer.

Submitted by John Luth
SVdP Council Secretary