



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Council Board Meeting – Minutes

April 27, 2023

4:00-6:15 p.m.

Presiding: Carole Johnson, President

Voting Members Present or participating virtually: Jeanette Aubuchon, Jeff Bunten, David Little, Mary Murphy, John Stephan, Russ Struttman, Clay Whitener, Bill Blow, Ernestine Jackson, Wes Karna, Bernie Sammons, Bill Blow, Yolanda Diaz, John Fallah, Dan Schlafly, and Christine Novalis

- Ex Officio Members Present: John Foppe and Fr. Dan Thiess
- SVdP staff present: Gena Bast, John Fitzpatrick, Mike Goering, Julie Komanetsky, Steve Poppe, Eric Weible
- Guests: Sharon Steis and Joan Pisoni (2023 National Assembly Steering Committee)
- Absent: Judy Belford, Lyle Gilbertson, and Dave Winslet (ex officio)
- Quorum present: Yes

1. Welcoming Remarks and Agenda Review – Carole Johnson

Carole displayed cardboard signs, commonly used by people standing on street corners asking for help. For those in need, Carole reminded us to consider “What must be done”, “What must I do”, and “What must we do”.

2. Opening Prayer– Fr. Dan Thiess, CM

As part of the Easter season, Fr. Dan reminded us of the doubting Apostle Thomas and how we are called to believe although we don’t see.

3. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda – Carole Johnson

- Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Voice of the Poor Committee report
- Credit Empowerment Task Force report
- Disaster Committee Report
- Development Committee report

- Stores Committee report
- Programs Committee Report

With one minor correction to page 5 of the minutes for January 26, 2023, the Board approved the minutes and reports.

4. Decisions to be made:

- Treasurer's report – Eric Weible

Cash Flow discussion: As illustrated on the Balance Sheet, the Council Current Ratio is healthy, with assets more than 2.5 times liabilities. However, as reflected in the Profit & Loss (P&L) statement for Oct-Mar, cash flow is a problem, running at negative \$1.4M through March 2023.

Several initiatives are underway to increase revenue and decrease expenses. Refer to the Cash Flow report and talking points for additional details. For example, some of the revenue generating activities include reopening thrift stores on Sunday, increasing the sales price of some store items, and implementing an e-commerce website. The Council will provide monthly updates on the cash flow improvement efforts.

A new accounting system is being implemented with a “go live” date of June 1st, 2023. Once implemented, financial reports will look more comprehensive for the next Board meeting.

- Resolution to provide immediate access to bequest funding – Carole Johnson

The resolution was approved, making a one-time exception to policy regarding Board Designated Funds (BDF), and immediately reallocating \$1.2M from BDF funds to Council operations.

- Resolution to establish a BDF Policy Task Force – Carole Johnson

The Board approved the resolution to establish a task force to revise BDF policy for greater equitability and sustainability. For example, the task force may: Explore program cost-sharing options, create a BDF fund for operational reserves, and address an SVdP organizational issue of money generally flowing down from Council rather than flowing up from Conferences and Districts.

- Resolution to establish a Safeguarding Task Force – Carole Johnson

In response to guidance from SVdP USA, the Council must establish a Safeguarding policy. The policy will address how Vincentians and Council employees will be trained in “Protecting God's Children”, about the dangers of abuse, and best practices for loss prevention. The Board approved the resolution.

- Resolution to renew the lease for the Creve Coeur store – Mike Goering

This is a good store in an excellent location. The rent is increasing, but the positive Net Income will more than cover the additional expense. Risks are minimal. The Board approved the resolution to renew the lease.

5. Information for Board Members:

- Committee report for 2023 National Assembly in St Louis – Sharon Steis
Preparations continue for the SVdP USA National Assembly in St Louis, scheduled Sep 6-9, 2023. A contract was recently signed for transportation. A suggestion was made for the Committee to address language needs.

- All Things New (ATN) Update – Julie Komanetsky

Preparations continue for the expected Archdiocese ATN announcement on May 28, 2023. The Council Formation Team is conducting monthly Zoom sessions to help Conferences prepare for any changes.

- FY 2023 2nd Quarter Strategic Progress Report – John Foppe and Leadership Team

The 2nd Quarter Strategic Progress report provided an overview of the achievements and challenges of the past quarter. The FY2023 Strategic Priorities Scorecard Summary shows 37% of goals completed, 48% in progress, and 15% of goals not yet started.

6. Other business: At the end of the meeting Carole Johnson called on John Fitzpatrick to share the Donor Engagement effort whereby Board members will make thank you telephone calls to donors. The Board members agreed to make calls.

7. Closing prayer: Be an “Intentional Disciple!” – Fr. Dan Thiess

The Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM

Respectfully submitted by Steve Poppe, Executive Assistant and Council Office Manager