

FirstU Board Minutes – 2024-06-19

Our mission is to “Kindle the light within and inspire courage to nurture the web of life and to create a just and compassionate world.”

Date: Wednesday 2024/06/19
Main Goals: To address various campus redevelopment issues and various board-related items
Attendees: Chuck Shields, Brent Nicolle, Mary Ella Keblusek, Phil Nagy, Rev. Eric Meter, Carmen Contreras, Guy Belleperche, Nancy Cloutier, Carl Sonnen, Michelle Jackson, Jen Brennan
Regrets: Amy Berube
Process Monitor: Phil
Timekeeper: Nancy

Minutes

Item
1. Call to Order - Check-in - Opening Reading [<i>ommitted</i>] - Opening song [Brent] - Assignment of Timekeeper [Nancy] and Process Monitor [Phil]
2. Consent Agenda: - Approval of this Agenda - Approval of Board Minutes 2024/05/15 [Att. 1] Moved by Guy, Seconded by Nancy. Passed
3. Discussion of any items from Consent Agenda Retreat clarification: On a Friday evening (staff and Board) followed by a full Saturday (Board only)

4. Minister's Report [Rev Eric] [Att.2]

- a. Jen approached RE assistant Suzan MacEwen to redo the stairwell mural
- b. Adult group and Rev. Eric are looking to offer a new adult learning group in the Fall.
- c. Thinking about investing in new sound equipment to supplement new cameras. Jen has an acquaintance who might be able to help pro-bono on improving and simplifying our existing technical video and audio equipment.
- d. Ongoing technical failures during Sunday services are significantly impacting our virtual/online visibility and 'stickiness'
- e. Feels a strong energy and commitment from core members and attendees.

5. President's Report - Chuck

- a. Mike Lloyd is organizing a FirstU team to address Indigenous reconciliation
- b. Attended Ajashki advisory council and was impressed
- c. Largely involved in Campus Planning

6. Update on campus development

- Status of legal document finalization
 - Terry, Bill, Brent, Lisa and Chuck working on legal documents with multiple legal specialists to produce all required legal agreements (OAHS and Theia)
 - City re-zoning application filed by FirstU has been designated as complete by city of Ottawa and will be open for review. On August 28 the city's Planning Committee will consider the application. If they accept it, then it will proceed to the full city council, probably about two weeks later.
 - Following this Theia will develop site and construction plans. That will take about one year. Construction might start in the early fall of 2025 and last about two years..
- Detailed parking as part of the site plan has not been determined yet. Temporary parking for 75 Cleary Tower is being discussed
- Updating congregants and UH residents re status
 - Some UH residents who are also UU members are very concerned that they don't feel consulted and feel disenfranchised from FirstU and no longer attend FirstU services and events.

- Discussion with Woodroffe North Community Association residents
 - Concern by nearby neighbors over the buffer greenspace on the west side of our property that having a tall 16 story building will impact their privacy.
 - Brent and Chuck spoke with them. Chuck commented to them that it is likely to be very difficult that the 'green buffer' is not used at all.
 - Need to determine how binding prior agreements regarding the buffer zone of being 12 meters. City no longer honors some of these legacy agreements as things have changed over the years.

6. Review applications and select FirstU reps to the Landco Board [Att. 3]

- a. Brent and Nancy are 2 individuals from the Board out of 4 applicants, for 3 positions on the Landco Board.
- b. Majority of board member tonight wishes to have more time to review who the first 3 board members will be. Can't wait long, because needs to be part of legal agreement within 3 weeks.

Action Item: To decide by email and offline.

7. Review suggested name for the joint corporation with Theia – taking the place of 'Landco'

- a. Board Poll: 'Aspire Home' 1 vote. 'Aspire Homes Ottawa' passed
- b. Second Poll: 'Aspire Riverview Homes'. passed

Motion: Be it resolved to officially search the registry to have our corporate Theia/FirstU corporate name become 'Aspire Homes Ottawa', with second fallback choice be 'Aspire Riverview Homes'. moved by Brent. Seconded by Carl. Passed

8. Review and approve Membership Task Force Recommendations [Att. 4]

- a. Moved that the document be approved as is, with the removal of item B3:

Moved: Brent. Seconded: Carmen. Passed

9. AGM and FCM dates – set or begin process to set these

- a. **Action Item:** Carl to check with all committee and team leaders on fixed dates for FCM and AGM. 2 week turnaround decision needed

10. Review Revised board covenant [Att. 5]

- a. Carmen and Brent have reviewed and reworded the template covenant for FirstU Board covenant.

Moved that the covenant be approved as is: Nancy. Seconded: Carl. Passed

11. Board retreat

- Identify potential dates.
 - September 13th dinner: All Board and Senior staff
 - September 14th daylong retreat/planning
- Identify a planning team: Eric, Nancy, Chuck

12. Board self-evaluation. Guy, Brent and Chuck to finalize

- How to conduct? Final approved document to be sent out prior to Board retreat.

13. Review of Rev. Eric's finalized performance review [Att. 7]

In Camera discussion

1. Excellent review design and feedback gathered by Mary Ella, Sharmila and Chuck. Further reviews might not need to be as comprehensive.
2. Make the review occur at the end of the calendar year or congregational year. Try to have all staff evaluations occur at the same time.
3. Chuck is meeting bi-weekly with rev. Eric.
4. Should we resurrect the Worship team? Eric that he is used to having a worship team.

Action Item: Chuck to clarify with Eric what he expects a worship team to do and how to pull one together, if desired.

14. General staff discussion.

In camera discussion

15. Closing

- Feedback from Process monitor []
- Closing reading [Guy]
- Adjournment

Next Board Meeting: August 21, 2024.