

## **July 1, 2018 Board Meeting - Transitional Meeting**

### **Present:**

Patricia Ice  
Susan Voisin  
Maureen McGuire  
Eric Saulters-Wood  
Justin McCreary  
Brian Heffner  
David Morgan  
Lisa Kersen  
Tom Kersen  
Ranjan Batra  
Lisa Dunn

### **12:30 Guest: Police Officer Christian Vance, Precinct 4 Crime Statistic discussion (statistics cover both property areas)**

The statistics are broad and show a higher volume of calls for service in beat 5 (current property on North State Street) which is mainly residential, but the statistics do not indicate the severity of crimes. The nature of a residential neighborhood causes it to have a higher volume of residential burglaries; these are crimes of opportunity. There are more calls for service in broad range of issues in a residential neighborhood.

The new property is in beat 3, on the corner of Fondren and State Street, and is further south than beat 1. Esthetics of area is not an indicator of crime. Community is a big factor of crime; the stronger the community, the less crime. The West Street area has people who have lived there for a long time; the North State Street area has a higher turnover of residents. Just east of West Street, crime numbers are lower than the neighborhood directly behind the current location of the church. However, trends are not an indicator of what can happen to or at either of our properties.

Crime statistics are calls and police activity. Having long term residents means a stronger community, which means less crime, and that does not depend on economic values. Tenure of community is what fights crime. More turnover of residents, more crime.

Directly behind the businesses on North State Street is a residential area, with more places of cover, more hiding, less lighting, and house burglaries are higher. On West Street, there is more lighting because of businesses, a major thoroughfare, and train tracks right behind the area. It is an industrial area, with less hiding places. Crimes of opportunity go for the path of less resistance.

A business area is easier to patrol at night, with less crime to cover. The more houses that are present, the harder it is to patrol because the area is usually darker, the structures are close together, and there are more opportunities for crime. West St is better to patrol, less crimes of opportunity.

There was a discussion of various incidences at the two properties. Officer Vance advised us to get statistics that show the type of calls, because that is what really matters. He advised us to not get caught up in esthetics of an area, because that is not an indicator of crime. The nature of the area is a better indicator; the more long term the residents, the better, also business areas are better.

## **Opening of board meeting at 1:00 by Patricia Ice**

Patricia passed out Trust Thyself from Centering book

Added to agenda: Request for reimbursement for \$175 for Eric Saulters-Wood and Patricia Ice for UUA; both attended electronically. Old board to approve. Ranjan reminded the board that this will increase the deficit. Susan made motion to pay and add to deficit, Ranjan seconded, unanimous approval.

Eric brought up that we missed the Shenefelt award; he would like for the board to make the 2017/2018 award. It was decided to leave this up to the incoming board.

Patricia introduced new board members. The current board is as follows:

Past President: Patricia Ice  
President: Maureen McGuire  
President Elect: Eric Saulters-Wood  
Treasurer: Ranjan Batra  
Secretary: Lisa Dunn  
Trustee: Brian Heffner  
Trustee: David Morgan

Patricia declared old board business done, with agreement that the minutes from 4/18/2018 board meeting will be recreated.

Board Meeting Minutes from 5/27/2018 were presented. Ranjan moved to approve the minutes, Maureen seconded, and the floor was opened for discussion and corrections. The following corrections were made: corrections from Ranjan for financial information and correction from Patricia that per discussion at the 5/27 board meeting, Patricia would open the transitional board meeting on 7/1, and then control of the meeting would transition to Maureen. Eric moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Patricia seconded, unanimous approval by the old board.

Agenda and discussion:

Preferences for meeting times/alternate days and times?

Maureen took written preferences from all members for days that work and days that would not work. Next meeting: tentatively set for Sunday August 26, all reports due Wednesday before the meeting.

At the next board meeting, the board needs to review the board Board Covenant.

Discussion of two properties and which to sell.

Transition task force should give its final report with 3 recommendations, including monetization of the new property versus the old property. The congregation members' opinions can be solicited.

Insurance was astronomical for a vacant building. In order for the new building to not be considered vacant, 30% of floor space must be occupied and used or renovated. It would be considered occupied the minister does work there.

Brian Heffner questioned who should have keys to the new property. After a discussion, Ranjan made a motion the current president, Brian, and Justin should have a set of keys, with the president to give notification to the board of any others who need keys. Brian seconded. Unanimous approval. Justin will have an office there.

Discussion about using the new property as rental space. Brian indicated Fondren is interested in renting the outside space. It was discussed that any rent of outside space should have the renters indemnify the church and bring in own sanitation facilities.

It was decided to have more forums for discussion and feedback on what to do with both properties.

#### Next Congregational Meeting

The next congregational meeting would be a special meeting called to discuss and decide on what to do with the State Street property and West Street property. The date is tentatively set for 10/21/2018, a potluck day.

The next regular congregational meeting is in December.

#### Transition Team

Current Transition Team:

Board representatives: Corey Melton, Susan Voisin

Congregation representatives: Brian Heffner, Jason Griggs, Eric Saulter-Woods

Since Susan Voisin and Corey Melton are both leaving the Board, the board needs to appoint two current board members to the Transition Team. Susan has offered to stay on the Transition Team as a congregation member.

Brian and Eric were appointed as the board representatives.

Motion made by Eric to accept Susan as a congregational representative and to ask the congregation for another volunteer to fill the fifth congregational representative position. Seconded by Brian. Unanimous approval.

Board meeting concluded at 2:00 with extinguishment of the chalice.