

CONGREGATIONAL SUMMER ASSEMBLY
ANNUAL MEETING
July 25, 2015
ASSEMBLY BUILDING

Call to Order: President Jennifer Daly called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. A quorum was present, and one proxy was filed with the Secretary. Attendance: 41 signed-in as members and 23 signed-in as Associate Members. There were 38 yellow cards and 21 blue cards distributed for voting (lists attached). The adjournment time set for 11:30 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Tamara Royle, on behalf of a committee comprised of Holly Freeburg, Joel Buzzell, and herself, announced that they had reviewed the minutes of the Annual Meeting of August 2, 2014 and moved they be approved as written; this was seconded by Ms. Frasco and the motion carried. Ms. Daly appointed Marilyn Winter, Jane Cooper, and Doug Fuller to review the minutes of this meeting.

President's Report: (no written report)

President Daly thanks staff and volunteers to make this summer so great so far-terrific youth activities. She recognized and thanked the outgoing Board of Trustees (BOT), Howe, Perry, Petrick, Wolszon. We have formed a Human Resource committee to help the CSA with job descriptions, salary structures, and succession planning for Managing Director, Office Manager, Pilgrim Fund Assistant, Sunday School Director, and Arts & Crafts Director far into the future.

Managing Director's Report: (no written report)

Mr. Cox noted it has been a nice smooth summer, warm weather, cool water. He is very happy with the staff, including the addition of David Tull for ball field and tennis. The Crystal View is going well, and it's a "madhouse" over the lunch hour, and serving excellent foods. Tim Dennison finished a 2nd storage shed at the Crystal beach courts. Scott Harrison and Rocky Rhodes helped him. He also thanked Jason Burt for making new benches with his father Jay, and for rehabbing picnic tables. The wi-fi in the South Room is up and running, a nice quiet place to work. This is not a supervised access, so that remains up to families to oversee. The Crystal beach was renewed 3 truckloads of sand, and the parking areas were graded. The Managing Director will be adding a weekly staffer highlight to the mass emails.

Treasurer's Report: (no written report)

Mr. Dawley spoke to only a few numbers (with a reminder that we are one week behind compared to last year). \$152K in fees; CV sales \$12K; Tennis fees \$3175; Auto fees \$7K. Expenses: the largest is insurance at \$30K, which includes comprehensive liability coverage; \$10.6K on tree work (budgeted at \$8K). \$9K property taxes on various taxable parcels; \$54K salaries to date. Capital improvements: \$5K new windows in CV; \$9500 road repair; \$1300 sand for Crystal beach.

Question about \$48,000 in CV expenses. This includes salaries, which are excluded when final budget is done.

Archivist's Report:

Ms. Cooper reported that all are encouraged to view the website with a link to the Benzie Museum. Many are generously dropping photos off for the Archives, but please put names on them if you are going to do that. Molly Harrison found a lot of old children's operetta scripts in the attic of the costume room, so those will be archived properly. Many thanks to Tammy Royle for leaving the Archives in such an excellent condition.

Women's Association Report:

Ms. O'Neal reported that she and Susan Baker will co-chair the programming of the WA-the Arts and Crafts Fair and the WA Annual Meeting. All other programs can be funded when volunteers step forward to host the events. Please see them or Jan Lauerman for information.

Vote to approve these reports: Ms. Burroughs moved, and Ms. Royle seconded approval of these reports. APPROVED

FUND REPORTS

Education "Scholarship" Fund:

Carole Edmunds reported that the fund received \$35K in donations in 2014 which included a \$10K gift from the CSA Board. The CSA awarded 12 scholarships for a total of \$25K in 2015. The names of these students will be announced in August. The balance in the fund is approximately \$12K with \$23K in the reserve account. Award totals since the 1993 inception of the fund is \$421K. New this year is the ability through Merrill Lynch to accept gifts of stocks and equities.

Pilgrim Fund (written report)

Mr. Pray reported that the fund is safe even though the Pirate King is in charge (a reference to recent Gilbert & Sullivan night). The fund is growing nicely, but it is not our purpose to grow "unspent" so if you have ideas for things needing funds, please let the committee know. Mr. Pray is working to stay current with taxable receipts, and is in process of switching from a manual record-keeping system to an electronic one that will automatically generate receipts. Last year, in consultation with the Spiritual Life committee, the fund donated to charities. Monies given to Church World Service in the past (due to influence of Telfer Mook) were not sent this year as the organization's focus has shifted. The committee decided to revert those monies to a local Benzie County charities: the Maples, Benzie Habitat for Humanity, Benzie food pantry, BACN, and Grow Benzie. One comment: is there a quicker way to get donations to the

Frankfort bank? Mr. Pray answered that it is complicated because more than one person has to sign the checks and the checks go to different addresses.

Preservation Fund

Mr. Lauerma restated the purpose of the fund is to keep monies aside to maintain and enhance and protect the capital assets of the CSA. Donations are not tax deductible. Currently the fund has \$476K in its investment account following the allocation policy of 40% bonds, 50% equities, 10% cash. We have received about \$1K this year in donations.

Mr. Gosnell moved, and Mr. Iles seconded approval of the fund reports. APPROVED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Committee: (written report)

Buildings and Grounds: (written report, no action)

Mr. Buzzel reported that the purpose of the committee is to hold Mother Nature and Father Time to budget.

Bylaws:

No report

Calendar:

No report. Please contact Mr. Cox or Ms. Schopp for anything you wish to be on the 2016 calendar.

Citation Committee

Ms. Cooper reported that this year's recipients of the Citation were Barbara and Frank Sommers.

Communications: (written report)

Mr. Fuller reported that the committee is responsible for the website, the Facebook page, and the mass email list and keeping all up to date. The mass email will be soon updated with new information from this summer's registrations. It was asked if the website is being monitored for number of hits. Yes. The new site went up in early June, and the most popular articles have had about 600-700 hits. The FB page can have up to 2,000 hits. A comment of thanks and praise for such a great website. Mr. Fuller announced that he is stepping down after 10 years and that Holly Freeburg will be taking over. Mr. Buzzell thanked him publicly to a round of applause.

Construction Review: (no report)

Crystal View: (no report, instead embedded in Managing Director's report)

Ecology: (written report)

Ms. Campbell shared that the M-22 butterfly garden has begun by Nancy Baglan, Joel Buzell, Carolyn Thayer. The Ecology committee, and the Women's Association have helped raise funds for it. We need more, please pollinate the word.

Ecology Fun is up and running with Kevin Kinnen, and 50+ kids ages 4-6 and 7-11 in each class.

Forest Care: (no written report)

Ms. Wolszon reported that as a new committee, it continues to work to address the loss of the ash and beech trees on the property. They are at work on educational videos for how individuals, and the CSA as an organization can address the removal of diseased trees and help establish the new understory. There was a question if attempts to save ash trees have been successful, and the anecdotal evidence is that treatments are working, especially on the smaller trees. Two large trees near the Meeting House have been treated, and they appear to be holding their own. But, this is expensive. Another commenter commended the forester who walked the properties last summer.

Legal: (no report)

Membership: (written report)

Ms. Cooper asked that attendees return their cards on the way out today.

Nominations: (written report)

Ms. Gottlieb reported that the 5 individuals on the slate will, if elected, begin to serve a 3 year term on the BOT. These are Nancy Gillett, Callie Gruman, Tom Johnson, Barbara Perry, and Steve Walton. The committee considers all who are brought forward, and takes balance, gender, age, membership status, history of participation in CSA activities, sense of responsibility, and willingness/ability to make the meetings with consistency. The committee does try to be transparent. Ms. Wolszon thanked the committee for their hard work in bringing in well-rounded sets of trustees.

Mr. Royle moved and Ms. Reisner seconded that nominations be closed and the entire slate be elected with one vote. APPROVED. Thank you to Ms. Rollinson for creating the poster in the office with slated officer bios.

Spiritual Life: (written report)

Mr. Edmonds reported that the Gibson Lecturer is Father Francis has just arrived to preach and teach us this next week. (see written report).

Tennis: (written report)

Mr. Nahnsen reported that Mr. Tull is doing an exceptionally fine job in his first year, and Bob Brown is (on a volunteer basis) conducting adult lessons. The July tournament

went well. The new card system at the Woods Courts has had its detractors, but it is gradually catching on, and the committee will keep it in place for two more years. Yesterday 20 mixed doubles teams visited Crystal Downs and “trounced” the CD in a friendly competition.

Waterfront: (written report)

Mr. Cooper reported that the committee is looking for a replacement (or two) to undertake the volunteer work that Pete Weir has done for several years in the off-season (taking in the lifeline in late September for example). Jason Burt has volunteered to help. There is apparent increased boat traffic on the east side of the lifeline from non-CSA members who have to be informed that this is a private beach. Most are accommodating, some have not been as friendly. If you see such visitors, please let the Waterfront staff know. Thanks to Mr. Iles for being chief bouncer. Comment: can we make the boating area just for boaters and not swimmers, and post a sign? Answer: This has historically been a losing battle. Question: Is anyone responsible for safe play on the Crystal beach playground equipment? Last week children were jumping from the top of the slide: Answer: we certainly rely on parents to supervise their children, and this is not an official responsibility of the waterfront staff. Community members are encouraged to say something to children who are behaving in unsafe ways. The Dertz family has stepped forward to help refurbish playground equipment at the Michigan beach, and there will be a survey this winter for ideas of needs in this regard. President Daly thanked the committee for doing all the data collection re: swimmers’ itch.

Youth: (written report)

Ms. Rollinson reported that she has agreed to chair a new committee to provide a youth choir (ages 8 and older) at the CSA. This summer there will be 4 rehearsals (late July, early August) and a performance on August 9, after which we hope to get feedback to make plans for future summers. Shannon Wise and Martha Reisner have volunteered to help.

Tom Johnson moved, and John Harbeson seconded approval of the committee reports.
APPROVED

Old Business:

Thanks to the CSA for paving Winthrop Walk.

New Business:

Mark Walton asked that the Buildings and Grounds committee look at the walk/path that goes along M-22 across from the Assembly Building to Crystal Beach since it was in disrepair that encouraged people to not use the painted crosswalk. He also said that since there is no opportunity for a beach fire at the Michigan Beach when water levels are so high, a fire pit below Crystal View similar to what Chimney Corners and Three Pines have would benefit CSA families who would like a beach fire.

Mark Walton moved that the Board of Trustees and officers of the Assembly be authorized to act on behalf of the membership of the Congregational Summer Assembly in the interim between annual meetings (the “Enabling Act”); seconded by Ms. Winters and carried without opposition.

The president appointed Marilyn Winter, Jane Cooper, and Doug Fuller as readers of the 2015 Annual Meeting minutes at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Fred Edmunds closed with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m., after which Mr. Daly thanked the president with flowers.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Walton, Secretary