

Keller UMC Board of Trustees
Zoom Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2021 6:00pm

Meeting convened at 6:02pm

Attendees: Paul Anderson, Laurie Ballard, Jessica Coleman, Mickey Shelley, Brady Sterchi, Earl Teague, Lou Tiner, Wayne Ward, and Bob Whetson

Others: Pastor Jason Valendy, Joey Gillaspay (Facilities), and David Burke (Lay Leader)

Opening prayer was led by Pastor Jason.

Due to this being our first meeting of 2021, the Board of Trustees introduced themselves to include the three new members; Laurie Ballard, Jessica Coleman, and Wayne Ward.

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the minutes of their last meeting from December 15, 2020. (The motion and approval of the December 15, 2020 minutes was conducted at the end of this meeting)

Lou Tiner and Brady Sterchi introduced Austin Walker who presented his Eagle Scout Project to the Board of Trustees. Austin's project is pathway addition to the prayer garden where there is currently bare soil near a cluster of trees. The intent of the project is to turn the bare ground into the pathway, which would help prevent erosion. This pathway would also be a gathering place for churchgoers where they can reflect, pray, and meditate. The design of the pathway area is planned to be 30' x 16' and include a three-foot walkway around the area with a 12' x 9' stone cross in the center. The walkway will be made with crushed red granite and metal edging. The stone cross in the center would be made from existing stone in the prayer garden. The pathway will be surrounded with different plants to help with the beautification of the project. Austin estimates his total cost for the project to be @ \$2,200. Austin intends, with approval, to have the project completed by the end of May 2021.

The Board had some questions for Austin. The primary question was regarding irrigation and if there is, a water supply to the area to ensure the plants received adequate watering. Joey explained there are sprinkler heads in the area and if needed it is not too much trouble to reposition the sprinkler heads. The Board also wanted to ensure Austin has received approval through the Prayer Garden Committee, and he has. There was a question about on-going maintenance regarding erosion of the crushed granite and other maintenance issues. Austin explained that erosion of the material would be minimal due to the prep work of the area that he plans to conduct; which will include some slight grading of the area to help control water runoff. It was explained by Lou that the minimal maintenance costs could be included in the facilities budget. Another question by the board of trustees was how the granite pathway would affect the trees in the area. Would the pathway affect water flow to the roots of the trees and therefore directly impacting the health of the trees. The Board of Trustees questioned if the depth of the crushed granite would be sufficient for foot traffic and if four inches of crushed granite will limit water flow to the roots as well. Austin explained that the pathway will be close to the trees, but far enough away to not impact water flow to the roots. The Board of Trustees asked that Austin research the concerns of proximity to the trees and depth of the crushed granite a little more to determine if the pathway needs to be moved further away from the trees. The discussion on Austin's Eagle Scout project concluded with a request to have Austin mark the area, so the trustees can get a better idea of the

location and how it may impact the trees. The Board of Trustees will discuss the proposal further after reviewing the area and will later vote on the approval of Austin's project.

The Board of Trustees then moved to the next item on their agenda, which was to select their 2021 chair person, vice chairperson, and secretary for 2021. There was minimal discussion during the nomination and unanimous selection of the following board members for their respective roles; Bob Whetson – Chair; Brady Sterchi – Vice Chair, and Jessica Coleman – Secretary.

Bob Whetson then led the Board of Trustees' discussion on a review and analysis of their 2020 goals. The trustees were successful in regards to most of their 2020 goals. There were goals that were affected by the shutdown and COVID-19 restrictions; which involved encouraging more membership participation in trustee projects and monthly meetings. One goal that had great success was the improvement of maintenance staff skills. Lou described the excellent work that the facilities staff completed during the shutdown. The facilities staff was able to improve, repair, and complete maintenance on multiple areas of the church campus. The Board of Trustees will continue to review the 2020 goals that were set and develop goals for 2021. Bob instructed the trustees to send him any suggested changes to the Board of Trustees goals for 2021.

The Board of Trustees began discussions on priorities for 2021. The trustees will meet on January 23, 2021 for a walk through of the church campus to start the process of identifying facilities needs and developing a list of priorities of those needs.

The Board of Trustees continued their meeting with discussion of a few new items that included Lou's reporting that the pest control budget for the church grounds was \$1,000 short. The budget will be amended to compensate for the \$1,000 shortage. Lou further explained that the trustee's budget from last year finalized well under what was budgeted; which ended up being 85% of what was proposed. Bob presented a proposal from Joey that needed trustee approval to move forward to the finance committee. The proposal was to inventory and attempt to sell items from the storage container near the Hallelujah Center building. The items that are not sold will be donated to charitable organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity. The Board of Trustees unanimously approved to move the proposal to the finance committee.

Bob provided an update on the FLC foundation and the Board of Trustees attempts to get a structural engineer to inspect, analyze, and provide a report on the FLC foundation and structure. Bob reported that it has been difficult finding someone to come in and provide what we need and are asking for. The task seems to be too big for smaller companies and too small for larger companies. Bob has recently met with one company and they have looked at the FLC; however, Bob is still awaiting some type of report or analysis of what was observed. The Board of Trustees discussed looking into identifying a church member who was qualified in conducting a structural engineering report. Lou suggested putting together an end of year report for the church that included a request for any structural engineers to survey the FLC.

Lou presented a request to install a shade covering for the playground near the FLC. When trees were removed from that area due to their condition, the area lost the much needed shade from those trees. The cost would be approximately \$10,000 with a donor wanting to provide \$5,000 towards the total

cost. Bob advised there was room in our budget to move forward with this request. The Board of Trustees unanimously approved to move forward with the shading project with the request to get at least one additional quote from another vendor.

The meeting closed with prayer from Pastor Jason

Meeting adjourned 7:39 pm