

Ecumenical Ministries of Perinton, Inc.
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting – December 4, 2017
@ McConville Considine Cooman & Morin, P.C.
100 Packet's Landing, Fairport, NY

MINUTES

Present: Directors S. Amrine, J. Burgeson, K. Cooman, G. Havens, R. Hill, P. May,
B. Meighan, B. Orsini, B. Smith, D. Wideman
PMUNY President Joyce M.
Multiple representatives of Stop the Stigma, including Maeve Reed

Absent: Directors R. Allen, R. Buchanan, B. Swarthout

President B. Orsini called the meeting to order at 8 p.m. To accommodate our guests this evening, ordinary business matters were deferred until later in the meeting.

STOP THE STIGMA – NEW MINISTRY

Over the past several weeks, R. Hill on behalf of the Board met with various youth and adult leaders of Stop the Stigma (“STS”), an organization established to raise awareness and care for youth suffering from some level of mental illness, and to help prevent teen suicide. R. Hill noted the high quality of STS written materials. A one page summary of STS’s goals is appended to these minutes.

R. Hill introduced Maeve Reed (a junior at Fairport High School) and other leaders of the organization, who are seeking to become a sponsored ministry of EMP. Pam Renfro (former youth leader at Fairport United Methodist) has served as a leader-mentor for the organization but was unable to be present at this meeting. Marie Kemp is serving as treasurer for STS. There is an ongoing effort to enlist underclassman as STS participants so that the organization is perpetuated going forward.

Maeve Reed herself became concerned about mental health and teen suicide when one of her friends committed suicide, and helped create STS. There is great local need; five Penfield High students have committed suicide in the last two years. This is a challenging issue, and people do not like to face it, or talk about it.

Maeve presented the key aspects of STS, and its plans for the next year. Each leadership position within the organization is staffed by an adult and a young person, so that there is a mentor relationship. The core participants are from Fairport, but several area schools, including Penfield, have participants. The focus has been on the east side of Rochester. STS is loosely affiliated with national organizations that have a similar mission.

STS plans for two annual concerts in the early summer, with a goal of raising awareness of mental health concerns and suicide prevention, particularly for people between 10 and 25 years of age. There are speakers in addition to the music. Attendance of 600 to 800 is expected, and \$3000 to \$4000 is raised for suicide prevention efforts, with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention as the recipient of the funds raised. Typically, corporate sponsors are obtained to cover the costs of the event, and are not just Perinton based. Last year there were speakers from the Veterans' Outreach Center with familiarity with these issues.

The first summer concert will be directed toward teens in particular. The second will have broader age appeal.

STS also seeks to connect at-risk individuals to resources and professional help where necessary. Workshops can be held, with discussion guidance by mental health professionals. Youth are encouraged to identify friends with potential problems, and connect them to help. Peer to peer support is critical to avoiding mental illness tragedies, and STS seeks to be a local organization mobilizing that support for local needs.

If STS becomes an EMP-sponsored ministry, it will be covered by EMP insurance. Gary Wilkens is assessing any additional insurance requirements in connection with STS activities. STS will defray any excess insurance costs incurred.

On motion of B. Orsini, seconded by R. Hill, the board UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the adoption of STS as a sponsored ministry of EMP, effective immediately.

REPORTS

Prison Ministry of Upstate NY

Joyce M. distributed her written report and financial report for PMUNY. In response to a question, Joyce explained that expenditures for PMUNY events are typically handled by a leader obtaining needed funds from the treasurer, and then reporting how they are spent. The volunteers themselves often contribute money necessary to fund the events. There is a need to recruit more young attendees at prison ministry events, as the volunteers tend to be older people. PMUNY could use some "marketing" help in this regard.

A Fully Alive women's meeting was held at Albion Correctional Facility. Several chaplains at regional prisons have requested programs at their institutions. Approximately 400 people were reached with events last year.

G. Havens reported that he had attended the HOOT portion of the program held this fall at the Groveland Correctional Facility. D. Wideman added that the prisoners are very grateful to interact with outside attendees. The inmates often feel forgotten and abandoned, and are impressed to meet adults who are kind and would care enough to come and join them at these events. Joyce M. again welcomed board members to participate in future events if they are able.

There was some discussion of possible EMP funding for PMUNY projects, but some specifics are needed. Generally any EMP funding of supported ministries from surplus resources should be for one-time, capital-type projects, rather than ordinary operational costs.

R. Hill recommended that PMUNY modify its financial reporting so that it corresponds with EMP's fiscal year, running July 1 – June 30, rather than on a calendar year basis.

On motion of J. Bergeson, seconded by P. May, the PMUNY financial statement was UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.

Fairport Good Neighbor Fund (“FGNF”)

A current financial report for the FGNF had been distributed in advance and was UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.

Currently the periodic FGNF financial report is circulated only to Board members. It was decided that it should also be sent to all the pastors of the member churches, and to other appropriate contacts at the churches. Each board member is to send B. Meaghan contact names and email addresses for this purpose.

Perinton Churches - Habitat for Humanity

R. Hill noted the success of the summer home building project, which has been completed. The financial support for the project worked out well.

OTHER BUSINESS

The draft minutes of the September 11, 2017 meeting were reviewed. One correction was noted – R. Hill was absent at the September meeting. With this the correction notes, J. Bergeson moved, seconded by D. Wideman, that the minutes of the September, 2017 meeting of the Board be approved. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

R. Hill noted that a board liaison to STS is needed. D. Wideman and P. May are interested, and will consider assuming this role.

Bylaw revision issues

Based on prior discussions, and some preliminary drafting by R. Hill, the Board discussed possible revision of the EMP by-laws (and similar revision of the PEM by-laws) to provide for “community directors,” that is, directors who are not the designated representatives of the member churches. This would allow the Board to obtain additional expertise and perspectives as it exercises its fiduciary oversight of the sponsored ministries. It was noted that the Senior Living Council has considered or implemented a similar expansion of its board, with up to five community directors.

The Board also discussed the need for a general by-laws revision process to update and conform the existing by-laws to the changes that been made in the Not for Profit Corporation Law since the last revision process, which had been handled by a Board subcommittee and some direction from George Wolf, Esq. K. Cooman advised that because EMP and PEM do not maintain an endowment, a number of the new financial rules implemented by law changes would not be applicable to our organizations. K. Cooman also advised that two of his attorney colleagues at his law firm have been performing by-law revision work for many area non-profits. He agreed to obtain an outline for what this revision process would entail, and a cost estimate for the work, to be reviewed at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on motion of J. Bergeson, seconded by G. Havens, by UNANIMOUS CONSENT at 9:40 pm, followed by recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin S. Cooman, Secretary

(N.B. Reports from the leaders of the various ministries referred to in these minutes are maintained in the folders for each meeting on the PEM-EMP website for review.)