

**Brunswick Street United Church
Regular Church Council Meeting
7 pm, Wednesday, October 22, 2003**



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as called by the Chair

Location: Brunswick Street United Church, 2107 Brunswick St., Halifax, Nova Scotia

Chair: Scott Barber

Recording Secretary: Sharon LaFramboise

Members: Hazel Andrews, Doris McGrath, Arline Shaw, Elnora Roue, Sharon Laframboise, Jim Sykes, Scott Barber, Vergensie Ward Lucinda Montizambert, Gus Pendelton, Lorna Pendelton

Guests: Susan LeFort, Wade Mitchell, Hugh Creighton, Juan Carlos (Street Feat)

Regrets:

Quorum:

Meeting began: 7:10pm

Welcome and Prayers

Gus led us in prayer at 7:10pm. We welcome our guest Juan Carlos, Wade & Susan

Sharon moved to extend corresponding privileges to Juan, Wade & Susan. Seconded by Lorna. Motion was passed

Lucinda moved we accept the agenda, seconded by Sharon. Motion was passed.

Lorna moved that we accept the minutes of September 22 and Oct. 28 Seconded by Arline. Motion was passed.

New Business

Street Feat proposal ñ Juan Carlos representative-Street Feat is Atlantic Canada's only street newspaper. The main thrust of our coverage is poverty and the poor, in an attempt to eradicate this social problem. Founded in 1997, Street Feat has published 31 issues to date, covering a wide range of topics related to poverty: (unemployment, housing, health, nutrition, art, misery, death, drug addiction, etc. Street Feat approached BSUC with a partnership proposal that they believed would be beneficial both organizations.

When Dave's Bottle Exchange on Agricola and Charles closed their operations to the public a few months ago, there was a major gap in this service in the North End was identified. Low-income people who relied on the depot for the little extra income were very distressed by the closure. This meant that they would now have to travel to the far south end of the city to return their bottles on Mitchell Street.

Street Feat felt that this closure and need for the service, provided them with an ideal opportunity to make some money and help the population they advocate for. They believed that BSUC shares this vision, and need, and would make a natural partner for the venture.

What they are suggesting is that we would provide the site for the business and that they would offer the management expertise. They believe that this business would generate income for both organizations and provide employment opportunities for the people we serve.

There is a tight timeline for the proposal and it must be submitted no later than Friday Oct. 24, 2003.

Concerns and questions

Zoning, our church has two zones the front part is R2 and the Back is R3 both are residential and non-commercial

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zones.

Insurance, how much would our insurance increase? Would the revenue that was generated cover the increase in insurance? It was suggested that the building can be divided into 2 parts, upper part would be exempt and the lower part of the church would be taxed as a business. (Juan said this is what the group he works with does in another facility they own and use for living, working and worshipping)

How much revenue would be generated from this business venture approx. \$3-5 thousand a month. Would this be enough to cover the all the operating costs including lost income (12,000) from the Parking?

Would there be a cost to us for having the bottles removed. ANS: The RRBFI (Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc.) would remove the cans & bottles at no cost to us.

Would the United Church of Canada allow us to operate a bottle depot as a non-profit business on the church property? This needs to be investigated.

Juan Carlos indicated that if we were not able to provide our space, he would still be interested in collaborating with us. If we are not able to re-zone and use our property as the site of the bottle depot, then what could we bring to the partnership then?

Recommendations based on the discussion

What has been suggested is that we go ahead, get the license first, and then deal with the other issues. Sharon moved that we go ahead and send in the application for the license for BSUC and Street Feat to operate a non-profit bottle depot. Seconded by Elnora. Motion was passed.

Hugh Creighton, our Accountant offered his expertise and volunteer time to sit on this project committee representing the BSUC's interest. We thanked Hugh for his contribution.

#333 update ñ what is happening; the review committee will be here tomorrow night at 6 P.M. Council will meet with committee and have supper. At 7:30pm, the committee will meet with the community.

We feel that the committee is looking for grounds to close us down or at least make some major changes in staff and management structure. Concerns were raised that the committee for #333 wanted to meet with church members during business hours and the staff, volunteers and council members found it difficult to accommodate this request. This process, they felt, was interfering with the day to day operation of the Church and Mission.

Conflict Resolution person David Mangle suggested that the #333 review and the conflict resolution process should not happen at the same time. He said that it would have been better if the conflict resolution process would have happened first, but realized that it is now too late given we are already engaged in the review. He suggested that we have a wait and see approach.

Many of the people who have met with the committee already, feel that the #333 committee have read the task force report and have a bias opinion based on the former recommendations. The council was reminded that the task force document and recommendations were never presented to the body of Presbytery and is therefore not a legally recognized document of record.

Volunteer update ñ departures and arrivals ñ Renee Duffy, Diane Martin and Jeff Martin have written letters of resignations. They were read into the official record and are being treated as official documents. Their departure leaves a large gap in the organization their tireless efforts supported many programs offered by the Mission/Church. . We are very sorry to see them leave under these circumstances. The primary source of their departure was due to conflict and volunteer burnout. It is hoped that Stu and Avery might intercede and mediate on the church's behalf to facilitate some healing. There were no plans were made to set any strategies in place to address this issue.

We would like to **welcome Charles**, a new, yet returning volunteer in the Drop In he is an amazing cook and a wonderful new asset to the team. We would also like to note that John, the regular breakfast cook has been ill and

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we wish him a speedy recovery.

New Security Response

Wade Mitchell, Scott Barber and Susan LeFort will be added as contacts for the security/alarm system of the church. Sharon Moved that Wade Mitchell, Susan LeFort and Scott Barber are to be added as contacts for the security/alarm system (emergency response system). Seconded by Lorna.

Financial Report- The accountant presented the financial statement for Sept. 30/03 and requested any question, having heard none ñ Hazel moved that we accept the financial statement ñ seconded by Lucinda.

Signers for Church Account

Doris McGrath volunteered to be a new signer for the churchís account. It was suggested that Sharon Laframboise and Shirley Carmichael also be added. Hazel moved that Doris, Sharon and Shirley be added as signers for the churchís account. Seconded by Lucinda.

Information/Announcements Next meeting date: Nov. 15/03

Adjourned: Sharon moved to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Arline. Meeting end time: 9:35pm

Prayers

Appendix

Signed: _____(Secretary) _____(Chair)

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