

Minutes: Heartland of Texas Emmaus Community Executive Board Meeting

May 8, 2023, 7:00 PM, Burnet FUMC

Attendees: JoAnn Dilworth, Rich Gilchrist, Mary Gonzalez, Roberta Goodman, Robert Hall, Bob Munsey, Laura Orr

Guests: Gay Cochran, Russell Cochran, Troy Ellet, Richard Wendrock

1. Bob called the meeting to order at 6:58 and Roberta opened us in prayer.
2. April Minutes:
 - a. JoAnn motioned to accept the April minutes, Rich seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. We still need to pay the Upper Room for each pilgrim from the Men's Walk.
 - b. We still owe Eagle's Wings the balance for the Men's Walk - \$3,525.
 - c. We will make a deposit for the Women's Walk in October - \$4,360 plus money for the conference team (Laura will calculate this amount).
4. Report on the Men's Walk 2023 from Russell:
 - a. Thursday evening started with rain and hail, but it all resulted in a beautiful rainbow.
 - b. The men gelled quickly, and some men remained in the chapel for a while.
 - c. The mix of men at each table was great.
 - d. Russell reported that the playing of "I Could Only Sit With You For A While" by MercyMe really touched his heart (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgyLZYmQLgo>).
 - e. The band was great.
 - f. Lesson learned: Tom Bornschein was hooking up the mic for each speaker. He was also a speaker and it was a bit hectic getting his mic hooked up. If this happens again, someone else needs to be prepared to hook up the mic for that person.
 - g. A Reunion Group table was set up for the first time and was attended by Richard. He had one visitor. Bob would like to see us continue the practice to see if it catches on.
 - h. The pastor at Russell's church is very interested in working with HOTEK to promote Walks, Reunion Groups, etc.
 - i. Two pilgrims have already gotten their wives to sign up for the Women's Walk.
 - j. Overall, everything went really well.
5. Update on the Women's Walk 2023:
 - a. Gay has picked a verse – Isaiah 51:10.
 - b. She has received 6 pilgrim applications, with several more pending pastor signatures.
 - c. Gay has asked the HOTEK people who participated in the recent Austin Women's Walk to let her know if they saw any ideas they'd like to see us implement. She will compile them and share them at a later date.
 - i. One idea was that a table would huddle up and pray together whenever they went up to speak. The pilgrims said this gave them a lot of strength and comfort.
 - d. There was discussion regarding the mix of clergy on a Walk.
 - i. Does the Spiritual Director need to be a woman on the Woman's Walk (or a man on the Men's Walk)? The answer is no.
 - ii. Gay would like to see at least one male clergy on the Women's Walk.
 - iii. Everyone agreed that a mix of men and women clergy on all Walks would be a good thing.
6. General Walk Information
 - a. We need to appoint the Servant Team Coordinator and hold a team selection within the next 1.5 months or so.
 - i. We could do this immediately after the June board meeting. If we're not ready, we will do it in July.

- b. JoAnn is working on creating a manual containing all the tasks to be completed to prepare for a walk.
 - c. JoAnn will continue as the outside team coordinator.
- 7. Text update:
 - a. Richard did some research on the texting service Simple Text and also the use of Mail Chimp for e-mail communications. He had quite a bit of information on both, so he will summarize his findings (features, cost, etc.) in an e-mail to the board.
- 8. Wearing of Lanyards to Church on the First Sunday of the Month:
 - a. There were mixed feelings on this. Roberta stated that she wouldn't want to do it on the first Sunday, as she felt it would distract from communion.
 - b. Troy stated that his pastor wouldn't allow it, as it is promoting something.
 - c. Richard had sent an e-mail to Bob about this topic prior to the meeting. Bob will forward it to everyone to review and discuss at a future meeting.
- 9. Other:
 - a. Bob expressed how proud he was of the HOTEK women who worked the Austin Women's Walk.
 - i. He would like to make sure that the women are recognized at a monthly gathering.
 - b. We have an opportunity to share walk best practices with other Emmaus communities.
 - c. Troy mentioned that the golf cart needs new batteries.
- 10. Troy closed us in prayer and Bob closed the meeting at 8:20

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Gilchrist, Secretary

May 11, 2023