

Minutes: Heartland of Texas Emmaus Community Executive Board Meeting

July 10, 2023, 7:00 PM, Burnet FUMC

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

Guests: Gay Cochran, Troy Ellet, Richard Wendrock

1. Bob called the meeting to order at 7:00 and Roberta opened us in prayer.
 2. June Minutes:
 - a. Acceptance of the minutes passed unanimously (I forgot to record who motioned and seconded).
 3. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. The Women's Walk shows deficit because the deposit on Eagle's Wings has been made, but not many registrations have been received yet.
 - b. Bob suggested replacing the golf cart batteries. JoAnn made a motion to replace them, Robert seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. It will cost about \$600. Troy will get and install the batteries.
 4. Women's Walk 2023 Update from Gay:
 - a. There are 14 pilgrims so far, with 5 maybes.
 - b. The inside team has been filled (see attached for the list).
 - i. The team list was approved unanimously (no motion or second needed because this came from the Selection Committee).
- A small red square icon with a white document symbol and the letters 'PDF' below it, indicating a PDF file is attached.
- Team Selection
2023 Women's.pdf
- ii.
 - c. Team meetings are as follows:
 - i. July 29
 - ii. August 26
 - iii. October 7 (will include the outside team as well).
 - iv. JoAnn will provide the meal for the October 7 meeting.
 - v. Meals will be needed for the other meetings.
 - d. There may be a need for sponsors. Depending on the timing, this could lead to issues with getting letters written in time.
5. Timing of Walk Team selections and announcements:
 - a. Our practice has always been to focus on one walk at a time. When the men's walk is completed, we move on to the women's walk and when the women's walk is completed, we move on to the men's walk. This means the process starts no sooner than 6 months before a walk.
 - b. The Upper Room guidelines say the teams should be selected 9 months prior to the walk. Adopting this practice will require a change to the current practice.
 - c. JoAnn suggested naming the men's lay director at the August board meeting. He can then name his spiritual director. This would be 8 months prior to the walk and sets us on a path to follow the US guidelines.
6. Possible merger with the Austin and Llano Communities:
 - a. Leaders from the Austin community approached Bob recently about the possibility of merging the communities.
 - i. Representatives from Austin will attend the August meeting to discuss this.

- b. Technically, Llano is already part of HOTEK, so there's not any change here.
- c. We discussed the logistics and impact of this merger.
 - i. There would be one board, community walks would be combined, but monthly gatherings would remain separate, as the long distances would discourage attendance.
 - ii. Concerns were raised about the possibility of the community becoming so large geographically that it could weaken HOTEK. This needs to be considered. Things like separate monthly gatherings will help to safeguard against this.
 - iii. Austin has already scheduled a Men's Walk for November. They've already requested our help in running it. Bob suggested they cancel it and plan to attend the HOTEK walk in April 2024. Between hunting season, football season, and Thanksgiving, November isn't a great month to hold a walk.
 - iv. We will need to discuss the structure of the board with merged communities.
 - v. Richard will be joining Lakeway Church, with a membership of 2,100 people. He's discussed Emmaus with the pastor.
 - 1. Emmaus has been inactive in Lakeway for several years.
 - 2. Richard told him he'd like to work to revive it.
 - 3. Under the current structure, Lakeway members who attend a walk would attend an Austin walk. If it takes off, Austin might not need to merge.
 - vi. We discussed calling it a partnership instead of a merger. We could partner with them until they have the momentum to be on their own again, especially if there's enough interest from Lakeway.
 - vii. Llano requested that we move date of the Men's Walk 2024 because it is the same weekend as the Llano crawfish boil. It was determined that we can't move it at this point.
- d. Community Communications:
 - i. The service found by Kelsey and Mail Chimp proposed by Richard were approved by the board at separate meetings.
 - ii. The service found by Kelsey has a lot of limitations, whereas Mail Chimp offers a lot of flexibility.
 - iii. We are officially abandoning the service found by Kelsey and will adopt Mail Chimp.

7. Bob closed the meeting at 8:03 and Mary closed us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Gilchrist, Secretary

July 12, 2023