

DRAFT Minutes of Cannon Valley Elder Collegium Board Meeting, 9/22/21

Members Present: Carol Rutz, Barbara Crouter, Susan Evans, Stephen Kelly, Arthur Higinbotham, Jill Ballard, David Peterson, Peggy Sheldon, Colleen Vitek, David Norman, Dan Sullivan, Nicole Barnette, Robert Nyvall, David Sauer

Absent: Karolyn Bertelsen

1. Meeting called to order by Board Chair Art Higinbotham at 3:45 in Room 103 of Fifty North.

2. Members introduced themselves for the benefit of new member David Sauer. As an aside it was stated that 300 Afghan refugees will settle in Minnesota.

3. It was announced that Kristi Wermager has resigned from the Board due to personal reasons. The Nominating Committee, consisting of Peggy Sheldon, Tim Madigan, Gordon Olson, and Becky Boling, will open a search for a Board replacement.

4. Minutes of May Board Meeting were accepted with corrections.

5. Executive Director Carol Rutz stated there were 106 responses to the election of officers. New officers are Art Higinbotham, Chair, Sue Evans, Vice Chair, Robert Nyvall, Secretary, and Colleen Vitek, Treasurer.

6. A discussion ensued over whether future Board meetings were to be held in person or via Zoom. Salient points included: people were uncomfortable meeting in person, difficulty in hearing each other because of masks, health concerns of individuals, and availability of meeting room. The October 20 Board meeting will be convened on Zoom.

7. Nicole Barnette reported on Operations. Because of several handouts related to the discussion, see the graphs, charts and discussion e-mailed to Board members on September 20, 2021. See also the Income/Expense summary from 7/1/20 to 6/30/21. An important point was Operation income was down 14% due to uncertainty on the part of students.

8. Dan Sullivan, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, reported on classes for next winter. To date, following are the 10 potential courses and instructor. a.) German Cinema, Karen Achberger; b) Religious Conversion, John Barbour; c.)

There is a Balm in Gilead, Richard Collman; d.) Jazz Appreciation, David Hagedorn; e.) Sisters and Saints—Women in American Religious History, Sandy Johnson; f.) Taking Personal Climate Action in Northfield, George Kinney; g.) Recent Irish Short Stories, Jim McDonnell; h.) Quantum Entanglement, Rich Noer; i.) Nature Observation and Citizen Science, Carol Trosset; j.) Shakespeare—Three Plays and Selected Sonnets, Dan Van Tassel.

A description of the courses and instructors is included on the handout “Winter Term 2022 CVEC Courses and Spring Term 2022 Courses in Progress”.

A discussion followed on whether we need a better definition of courses, that are mostly liberal arts, and who is qualified to teach such courses.

9. Barbara Crouter solicited people to sign up for duties during the Annual Meeting. We could enter St. Johns at 1:00 pm but a person from St. Johns must be present to “supervise” our use of the kitchen.

Peggy Sheldon brought up the issue of should an Annual Meeting be held due to the current status of Covid? A lengthy discussion ensued over the issues surrounding the annual meeting during which pie was a central theme. A motion was made by David Peterson, seconded by Jill Ballard that the meeting be moved to Zoom. The motion was defeated but amid much uncertainty by Board members. Sue Evans opined there were three options. a) Meeting with no food; b) Traditional meeting with food; c) Meeting be held via Zoom.

The number of attendees for the 2020 annual meeting via Zoom was reported to be “way down”. Steve Kelly suggested the meeting be postponed until spring. Carol Rutz also suggested suspending the meeting until later in the spring. A motion was made by Colleen Vitek, seconded by Peggy Sheldon that the October meeting be suspended and that a future date be discussed during the January Board meeting. Motion passed.

Robert Nyvall has since notified St. Johns that the Annual Meeting is postponed and discussion concerning the event will be held at a later date.

9. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Nyvall, Secretary