

Deerhaven Conference Minutes

November 11, 2023

Hybrid Event (Zoom and in-person at Clearwater church)

Chuck Petz called the meeting to order at 12:59 p.m.

John Shotwell moved to accept the minutes from the November 12, 2022, Conference and Jim Brougher seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Chuck gave a campground report. 2023 was an interesting year: our camper days were up but the grounds needed lots of repairs. The AC outside Rob's office broke, trees landed on the power pole, water lines needed repair, sewage system needed to be patched, to name some repairs. Deerhaven still needs a replacement for the walk-in freezer, but the estimate is \$40,000. The drain system needs repair due to the clay tile and the tree roots have grown into it. The well is leaking, and the pressure tank needs replacement. Cracked tiles in the pool need replacing and the main hall has been flooded multiple times. The RV parking area now has only 3 sites working. The RV bathrooms need new updates.

Deerhaven is a place where people come to retreat from the busyness of day-to-day life; it is the go-to place to meet God.

Mike Barnett gave an update on marketing efforts he made this year. At the beginning of 2023, he helped create a short and long version of a marketing video. He sent out 425 marketing emails to nature-oriented groups and outside recreation clubs since June. The emails included links to the new marketing video geared toward nature groups, a demographic we have not previously reached. Most of our renters are from other religious groups in the state. Mike asked for help reaching other nature groups throughout the state by sending him contact information found on Meetup.com for groups in other areas.

Chuck shared the 2023 financial statements.

Receipts \$203,000

Expenses \$196,000 (unplanned maintenance)

Using about \$19,000 a month to run the campgrounds.

Chuck presented 3 options discussed by the Board of Directors for the 2024 Budget. Option B reduces congregation assessments to \$37,476 which is about 25% less than Option A, but cash flow becomes tight when we have fewer camper days, and this option requires a greater withdrawal from AIP to meet expenses.

John Shotwell from Ft. Myers asked about \$400 a month for phone service. Chuck stated the phone is for safety reasons, including 2 lines that are required for the fire alarm system.

Discussion continued. Cathy Nichols asked questions about a lawn service and owning the equipment and Chuck stated that no company will go into Deerhaven to give us an estimate. Also, Chuck explained that not-for-profit means we can't profit from the campgrounds but any profits are put back into the campgrounds.

The Tavares congregation (on Zoom) asked the question about cooks in the budget. This is a pass-through line to record payments made to cooks hired by rental groups.

Jacob Blakesley raised some thoughts about leasing the mowers and equipment.

Option #A \$48,000 congregational assessment

Option #B \$37,476 congregational assessment

Option #C \$52,000 congregational assessment (Off the table)

No motion no second or no discussion was made on option #A

Sam Nichols moved to accept Option #B for the 2024 Budget, The motion was seconded, the vote carried.

Chuck presented a Resolution to End Congregational Assessments put forth by the Ft. Myers congregation. Chuck stated that the Bylaws would need to be changed to accept this resolution since the Bylaws call for funding the campground through congregation assessments. The Deerhaven Board needs to have more discussion about how to increase camper days and other options for funding the budget.

Election of Board of Directors

Chuck called for nominations for 1 Board position ending the end of 2025 and 3 positions for 2024-2026. Tracy Miller was nominated to serve through the end of 2025. Heather Baker, Sam Nichols, and John Shotwell were nominated to serve 2024-2026. The conference voted to accept all nominations.

Tracy Miller moved to allow the Deerhaven Board of Directors to consider requesting a line of credit from the mission center of \$40,000, the motion was seconded. Discussion followed. The line of credit is to cover cash flow shortage issues that may come up. A vote was taken, and the motion was passed.

Sam Nichols moved to adjourn at 2:03 pm. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Miller

Deerhaven Board Secretary