

COUNCIL MINUTES NOVEMBER 6, 2018

The Council meeting was opened at 2:35 by President, Bob Gottfried. All Council members were present with the exception of Phil Gisser and Marian Friedmann.

Bob Gottfried gave a summary report and presented the agenda for the General Meeting. He continued with the best news regarding a bequest by Ken Leedom of \$300,000 to Quest to use as we see fit. Bob nominated a committee to discuss and prepare recommendations as to how to spend this money. The members of the committee are the 4 officers, Bob Gottfried, Steve Allen, Marian Friedman and Carolyn McGuire. In addition, he authorized Jane Lubin, Pam Gemelli, Michael Wellner and Bob Hartmann to also serve. The committee will report their recommendations to the Council. Frieda Lipp made a motion to accept this committee. It was seconded by Jennifer Jolly and passed unanimously.

Steve Allen followed with the Treasurers Report: Quest's finances continue in a healthy state. Our annual revenues from membership fees cover our annual expenses and we have a robust reserve that has primarily been built from charitable contributions that is available for emergencies.

Annual revenue from membership dues will be about \$139,000 this year, about \$9,000 more than currently projected expenses of about \$130,000. About 75% of our \$130,000 in expenses is directly related to CWE – \$67,500 in rent and the cost of an administrative assistant, contributions to CWE, and mandated insurance. Expenses related to CWE also account for about 75% of our \$43,000 increase in annual expenses over the past six years. This increase in expenses can be attributed to our need for extra resources to meet a growing membership, but has been matched by a \$43,000 increase in annual membership fees over the past six years.

Quest reserves of about \$300,000 consist of about \$245,000 in our banking accounts (split roughly between \$5,000 in our Chase checking account, \$200,000 in certificates of deposit at First Republic Bank, and \$40,000 in a savings account at HSBC) and \$55,000 in our account at CWE in excess of budgeted expenses. Our reserves would be available for emergency expenditures such as would be associated with the loss of our CWE-rental space.

This was followed by Steve Allen giving the Attendance status.

1. Attendance is slightly higher on Tuesdays and Wednesdays than on Mondays and Thursdays, averaging about 73, compared to 68 on Mondays and 63 on Thursdays. This is a consistent pattern over the nine terms we have been tracking attendance. On average, each Quest member attends for about 2 1/2 of the possible 8 time slots each week (morning and afternoon of Monday through Thursday).

2. Despite membership rising by 20% from 212 in 2013-2014 to 253 currently, average attendance has only increased by less than 10%, from 65 in the Fall of 2014 to about 70 in the past two Fall terms.

3. Fall attendance is about 8% higher on average than Spring attendance.

There was a discussion regarding the reports of problems with the Senior Learning Centers at both Brooklyn College and IRP having to vacate their premises and find a new home. We anticipate that some members of these organizations might request membership in Quest. In general, the consensus of opinion among the Council members was a “wait and see” attitude. Also, we had no intention of raising our cap above the current level of 260 without a vote by the membership on a new cap. This vote would take place at the Spring General Membership Meeting.

Bob announced our annual Holiday Dinner will be held on Friday December 7th on the East side of Manhattan to accommodate those who

traveled to the West side last year. It will be at Nino's on 1st Avenue and 78th St. The cost is \$40 for members and \$60 for guests.

A discussion of decorum while in a class regarding the use of cell phones. Seeing people in the audience using cell phones can be distracting to presenters, but some members are now using electronic devices to take notes. It is suggested that members who wish to take notes using electronic devices speak to the presenter before the meeting. In this new world, all agreed that this may be a common occurrence for the future.

An announcement was made that “Leave No Trace”, a movie directed by Deborah Granick is the daughter of Brenda Zusman a Quester. The movie will be shown on December 6th at 12:30.

There was no New Business.
The meeting was adjourned at 3:30

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn McGuire