

Tall Oaks Camp and Conference Center Commission
October 31, 2018

Present: Kristin Dow, Bill Rose-Heim, Lara Blackwood Pickrel, James Vertreese, Jeff Hon, Suzi Goldt, and Martha Pierce.

I. Opening Prayer

Bill Rose-Heim opened us with a fall prayer from Marquette University.

II. Approval of Minutes

The September minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Financial Report

Martha gave us a report of year to date expenses (without payroll) generated by Heather at Tall Oaks. Those figures do not match those given to us by Treasury Services. We discussed how to reconcile this. We will be asking Miller Management to take over our financial reporting before the beginning of the year, using Region reserve funds. We will ask the Executive Committee of the Region to approve that we begin the process with Miller Management for review, and that we will retain Miller Management to take over Tall Oaks financials moving forward, taking over from Treasury Services. James will contact Miller Management to hopefully begin before December 1.

IV. Open Issues

- a) Restructure of Tall Oaks Commission/Relationship to GKC Region – report on recruiting new board members

New board members who have agreed to serve:

Donna Rose-Heim

Sandy Allen

Daniel Merrick

Bill Drake

Suzi Goldt

Kristin Dow

Jeff Hon

Annette Hollingsworth

Still Maybe

Annetta Vertreese

Stacy Kearny

Ex Officio

Bill Rose-Heim

Martha Pierce

Kelly Lee (Camp Encourage)

Our first board meeting will be January 26 with lunch, tour and team building at Tall Oaks.

- b) Staffing Updates (report from Martha)

Martha distributed the following written report.

October has been a busy month, with 38 groups utilizing Tall Oaks.

Our first annual Neighborhood of World Religions happened October 24. Dr. Vern Barnett facilitated.

Alan Edelman, the Judaism Director with Interfaith Council, represented his faith and was very inspiring.

Mahnaz Shabbit taught about the Muslim faith. Sergio Moreno interpreted Buddhism. Kara Hawkins and Stumbling Deer provide an ending Native American experience. 20 people attended, including leadership. Several people were new to Tall Oaks and were asking about future programming. It was a wonderful time of learning and coming together in peace, joy and awe. We look forward to our weekend event in January and are praying for a good participation.

Jeff Hon came to Tall Oaks and spent the day with Steve Root, going over the various maintenance challenges that lie ahead – leaky roofs, challenging ac/heat and more! It was a big encouragement for Steve to have someone from the Commission come out and spend time here.

Bill Roseheim came out and looked at the derelict trailer. He took pictures and recorded me talking about the work that needed to be done. We hope to get volunteers to help clear the interior and prepare the unit for a final demolition.

I attended the annual fund raiser for our Autism group, Camp Encourage. It was quite an eye opener. In one evening, they raised a bit over \$60,000.00. I plan to share some ideas with the Gala committee and have visions of a secondary fund raiser for Tall Oaks that could be done in the spring. I believe that raising a good portion of our budget through fund raising is critical and look forward to working with the new Board members to do so! Barb Deaver and I have finally had a chance to talk a bit one on one. She has been talking retirement at 70 because of the statement in the Employee Handbook about mandatory retirement age of 70. I believe that she would be willing to continue in her position with more clarity of the job and the hiring of a 20 hr/week assistant. We have that person currently helping Barb but would need to make something more official. I will keep the commission updated as we progress in our discussions.

The next Equine Team meeting will be Monday, Nov 26 at 10am with lunch provided after.

Hannah is currently working on a grant “blank” document that contains all pertinent information that would be expected in any application. In the future, she will be able to insert specific details and move on requests.

A large tree fell in the horse area, taking down fencing. There is another one that needs to be removed before fence repair can commence. When our tree removal pro is here next week, we will have him look at the remaining tree and see when that one can come down as well. New fence will have to be put up after that. The two trees threatening buildings will come down next week and we will have a report on how soon our tree service can drop the one in the horse field.

Steve has met with an AC/heat expert who is working with him on the LLC and all other units. He has connected us with Johnson Controls, who have 2 control units in the attic of LLC. It will be expensive, but the Johnson Control tech can come out, examine the units and work with the computer system to rework our heating and ac a bit. Currently, it is very difficult to get the heat to come up to a comfortable level. Our goal is to have a 10-degree spread of adjustment for day to day use. We hope to have that happen in the next 2 weeks. Johnson Controls is coming out today. When I return to Tall Oaks, I hope to have a report from Steve.

Hannah and Martha will be attending the state KACEE event in Lawrence Nov 2 & 3. This is a short training and connecting time. We look forward to meeting more people involved in Project Learning Tree and other outdoor programming. There are plans in the works to have a Project Learning Tree certification course at Tall Oaks in March.

We continue to have kitchen challenges. Down to only one cook, Johnny Alexander, I pitch in to cover some shifts. We are advertising through flyers, local internet connections and Indeed. I have calls in to JCCC culinary institute. It is challenging to split my time between kitchen and director positions. If anyone on the Commission has ideas to spread the word, please do so!

After looking over all past due amounts, I sent out letters to 4 groups owing over 60 days. One group has already responded. If there is no reply to the other letters, I will follow up with another phone contact with leadership of each group. Total due from the 4 groups is \$4346.77. Other accounts are within the 60 day limit. Our Eagle Scout, Jake Wilson, is doing his project this Saturday, 1 – 5pm. He is building a six sided swing area between the LLC and Vespers. This will be a wonderful area to sit and visit. Visions of a fire pit at the center and options to put up hammocks are in the plans!

Tall Oaks is planning to have their annual Holiday party Wednesday, Nov 28 in the dining hall. We will be extending the invitation to Commission and Board members as well as Regional staff. It will be midday. More information forth coming!

The staff at Tall Oaks is small for so large a facility. I cannot express enough how proud I am of their hard work and dedication to our mission and ministry. It is a joy and blessing to work with such a team. Peace, Martha Pierce

- c) Update on video project with Gary Arnold Seevers – extra pictures not taken, but he said he would make it work.
- d) Gala update (Annette)
 - 170 silent auction items to date – some are very nice
 - 12 interesting live auction items, include something with Patrick Mahomes verified signature
 - A quilt for the raffle
 - People are not calling in the table reservations as Ken would like, but they are coming in this week
 - Kristin offered to provide a dinner in January at New Song for the Gala committee

V. New Business

c) Recommendation for Regional Camp and Retreat Coordinator

Reports to and Gets Support from Bill Rose-Heim

Responsible to Camp and Conference Committee

This person will be background checked

It will be a salaried position

Bill and Lara will design the final position

We recommend \$30,000 - \$35,000 per year total package plus mileage during the summer months

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm

Next meeting will be November 28 at 10 am at Tall Oaks. Lunch will follow.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzi Goldt

