

Meeting Minutes – Stevenson Chapel Fund Association  
12:15PM Thursday, March 21, 2013  
Bahnhof Café, Cuero, Texas

The Stevenson Chapel Fund Association met on Thursday March 21, 2013 at the Bahnhof Café. Those present included:

Paul Morkovsky  
Richard Van Wormer  
Chaplain Casey Celum  
John Ortmann  
Leslie Rabke  
Mark Longoria  
Larry Lancaster  
Billy Stehling

Paul distributed the meeting agenda and copies of current By-laws to attendees and the minutes of the previous meeting were read. Mr. Larry Lancaster stated that the statement from the February 21, 2013 minutes regarding “temporary” tax-exempt status and review after two years has indeed been eliminated by the IRS and is no longer a valid statement. Minutes were approved as read with this revision noted in the minutes for the March 21 meeting as stated.

Paul Morkovsky stated that the previously discussed research and photography trip to the Jordan Unit in Amarillo will be abandoned due to the size of the chapel being too small. Photographs from the building may be available through Chaplain Celum from the Maintenance Supervisor at the Jordan Unit for further review if deemed pertinent.

Paul then reported that during a recent conversation with the Stevenson Prison’s current Warden, the Warden had expressed his opinion that a preferable location on the grounds for the chapel building would be at the center of the exercise yard. With the reduction of electrical, plumbing and other infrastructure to reach this location, some cost savings would be realized. At this early stage of the planning, Paul then requested a list of contacts from Chaplain Celum so that further investigation and questioning of TDCJ architectural/planning staff could be pursued. Other questions regarding naming rights, plaques and modification of typical plan packages could also be posed.

New members recognized at the meeting included: Mr. Larry Lancaster, experienced 501[c] 3 project planner, and Mr. Billy Stehling, former Alcoa Maintenance Supervisor. Mr. Lancaster proposed valuable input regarding our group’s pursuit of tax-exempt status, and suggested that the easiest and fastest method for IRS approval would likely be through the formation of a Corporation instead of pursuing the status as an Unincorporated Association. The “Corporation” avenue would prevent any lawsuits from being lodged against the assets of individual board members. He also pointed out that local attorney Mr. Ray Reese would likely volunteer legal counsel for a corporation at no charge. After lengthy discussion, Richard Van Wormer agreed to make contact with Mr. Reese to set up a meeting between him, Paul, and Mr. Reese to go over the preliminary actions for the formation of a Corporation.

Paul then distributed copies of forms received from Jamie Notz CPA and discussion was held regarding their relevance to the tax-exempt status application as well as her email regarding items yet required for the opening of the bank account at Trust Texas Bank.

During further discussion regarding IRS Tax Exempt status, Mr. Lancaster indicated that budget paperwork would be required showing estimates of the current year's financial assessments as well as monetary considerations for the two ensuing years. He also stated that during the waiting period following filing of paperwork until formal IRS approval, the board should consider researching possible grantors and donor foundations to submit proposals or grant applications to, once tax-exempt status is achieved. He stated that the University of Houston library holds a vast amount of data regarding national foundations and their likelihood of funding certain types of activities.

Les Rabke distributed information forms from Trust Texas Bank to Paul and Richard Van Wormer to be filled out and returned to Amanda Cowey at the financial institution as soon as possible. Information forms will also be completed and returned by Les Rabke and Johnny Varela. Rabke will also present a copy of the signed minutes showing the approval of Trust Texas Bank as the official financial institution of the organization.

Chaplain Celum questioned the group regarding the possibility of using Mr. Gary Flessner's 501[c] 3 tax exempt status for the Stevenson Chapel Fund Association. Further research regarding this option will be pursued.

New members Mr. Lancaster and Mr. Stehling briefly reviewed the TDCJ typical floor plan that the association is currently considering and after a short discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Morkovsky - Chairman