

Ethician Foundation Board Meeting

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26 NOVEMBER 2015

At 6:15 PM a meeting of the Ethician Foundation Board was held in Waterwood, Texas.

Present were:

Margaret A. Russell, Secretary
George H. Russell, President
Suzanne B. Russell, Member
Jane R. McCullah, Member
Karen L. Robinson, Member
George A. Russell, Member
Nicholas M. Shurgot, Visitor

The meeting was called to order by GHR.

KLR had to excuse herself from the meeting due to a medical emergency with her daughter and gave her proxy to MAR.

GHR reminded non board members present that they may comment but are not permitted to vote.

George Russell opened a discussion of agenda items submitted to the board prior to the start of the meeting (see attached on p.6).

1. Agenda item one was to read and approve the board meeting minutes from the year prior.

MAR read the minutes from the last board meeting in 2014 and these minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Discuss and take action on managing wildlife sanctuaries, botanical preserves and museum collections owned by The Universal Ethician Church.

**ETHICIAN FOUNDATION BOARD MINUTES
26 NOVEMBER 2015**

GHR began by clarifying that a church is a church, with activities pertaining to worship on the Sabbath and Easter and other religious holidays, and to green burials. The Church needs assistance managing its natural area preserves.

The Church Board has asked if the Ethician Foundation would assume that responsibility of managing botanical areas and wildlife preserves – and wildlife. This encompasses preventing fires, implementing controlled burns to prevent destructive wildfires, to assess wildlife and prevent poaching on the grounds – i.e. any non-religious activities.

GHR moves that the Ethician Foundation take over management of these contingent wildlife areas.

SBR moved to put it to a vote as to whether to allow Foundation management of UEC land.

Jane seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

GHR addressed the third agenda item:

3. Discuss and take action on agreeing to accept the donation of 4.33 acres in the City of Huntsville as an asset to be sold in order to raise funds for the completion of ongoing foundation museum projects and to purchase 500 acres adjacent to Palmetto Creek in order to protect both sides of the creek from development or other exploitation.

GHR explained that if the Foundation could acquire the other side of Palmetto Creek, approximately 500 acres, then we could have the entire creek preserved from FM 980 to Lake Livingston. The current owner has pulled the listing and is waiting for the Foundation to raise the funds for the acquisition. The Russell Family has agreed to donate 4.33 acres along Ave. O in Huntsville to the Foundation so that the Foundation might sell the property to a developer and use the proceeds to acquire the 500 acres as well as to complete the Foundation's various museum projects on University Avenue.

JRM moves to accept the donation of 4.33 acres in Huntsville by the Russell Family.

The motion passed unanimously, with GHR and SBR abstaining from the vote, as they are the donors of the 4.33 acres.

NMS advises that the current offer to purchase the 4.33 acres by a Southern California developer is a good price per acre.

The fourth agenda item was addressed by GHR:

4. Discuss strategies for dealing with corrupt tax authorities in San Jacinto County.

**ETHICIAN FOUNDATION BOARD MINUTES
26 NOVEMBER 2015**

GHR advises that there is corruption in the offices of tax assessor in both Walker and San Jacinto Counties, where Foundation properties exist. The counties don't want to lose tax revenue resulting by properties acquiring tax exempt status as Foundation assets -- and they have unilateral control as taxing authority. Walker County has responded to tax revenue loss by dramatically raising taxes on Russell family's taxable properties (non Church or non Foundation real estate.) Lawsuits were eminent but it required 33 individual suits to address excessive taxation of each of 33 separate Russell family properties. Now, the same problem is being faced in San Jacinto County. Corrupt officials have categorized green cemeteries as "prime commercial development". We are facing a potential 50 additional suits in San Jacinto County. The taxing authorities are acting illegally. Title One tax code states that when activities are tax-exempt, that proceeds have to be used for activities within the year.

GHR addressed item five:

5. Discuss fund raising projects in progress including donations to be used to continue surfacing trails with rock and eventually concrete to accommodate handicapped visitors and for fire and poacher control.

In order to fund Foundation activities, GHR has sold Russell Family assets – the condo in the Tower of Town Lake in Austin, TX and the commercial property on 12th Street in downtown Huntsville. The Foundation needs to stimulate donations. Carlo will have to do fundraising or else quit his job. He must create cash flow to keep the Foundation alive.

If the Foundation acquires the 500 acres, establishes good trail system, and gets the taxing authorities to follow the law, then the wilderness assets mostly maintain themselves. Still, Foundations need money to operate and improve the Veterans' Cemetery paths and erect eagle poles to replace natural roosts and perches - trees lost in drought. Potential sources are:

- 5% stock in a trailer factory. Frank Robinson is courting private equity money in order to expand the factory. \$4750 monthly rent is coming in now from they company.
- Investment in Saddle Peak, LLC will begin to pay dividends that can feed the Foundation.
- Carlo is looking into grant writing. Ex: Terry Hershey donated \$3M for 50 acres of urban prairie recently.

Agenda item six, per GHR:

6. Discuss how to involve the Bayou Land Conservancy in accepting conservation easements on foundation properties not yet under perpetual protection from development.

**ETHICIAN FOUNDATION BOARD MINUTES
26 NOVEMBER 2015**

GHR is attempting to network with Houston conservation agencies, including Bayou Land Conservancy. The Feds are clamping down on land trusts. They are requiring people to set up and include an endowment which discourages preservation. There are 700 acres at Waterwood that are not under perpetual protection and could be sold and developed.

GHR presented item seven for discussion:

7. Discuss how best to coordinate our scientific study efforts with the biology departments of various universities.

GHR had wanted to create a Strategic Institute of Biospheric Studies and had Rice University interested.

The Foundation has been networking with Sam Houston State University via Dr. Godwin. Godwin has taken residence in the 1830's log building and the Foundation has also put antiques on loan to Dr. Godwin's natural history exhibit. An agreement is being worked out wherein Godwin would have use of an historic log museum building for \$1 per year in exchange for his raising the \$100,000 in donations needed to complete the historic renovation of the building. Either of the Pelican houses in Waterwood will be open to any researcher or any group studying the environment of Foundation lands.

Item eight, per GHR:

8. Discuss how best to formalize the foundation's **INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC BIOSPHERIC STUDIES** as an adjunct to the **US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE** and university systems worldwide.

Per the DOD, the biggest threat to civilization is the destruction of the planet. We need to get traction on the Institute of Biospheric Studies.

Item nine:

9. Discuss what actions to take on behalf of God's Garden Parkway, currently managed by the foundation and under attack by Waterwood Improvement Association.

The median in Waterwood, God's Garden Parkway, has been vandalized multiple times. WIA filed a frivolous lawsuit against SBR just for her asking about mowing schedules on her own land. Mediation produced an agreement with WIA, which has since been violated. Rare orchids were mowed and stolen. Agreed upon mowing times, pertaining to wild flowers going to seed and grass length, have been disregarded. WIA has sued us again. Lawyer Jack Zimmerman is spearheading harassment. Our attorneys are to depose Shorty, Zimmerman and Joe Moore. Zimmerman does not want to be deposed. Shorty will tell the truth and say that he was ordered to cut flowers. Maybe the Universal

**ETHICIAN FOUNDATION BOARD MINUTES
26 NOVEMBER 2015**

Ethician Church should consider selling the parkway to WIA. Even with a valuation (replacement value) of 12-15M, the church could be willing to sell for 2M. We will issue a 30-day cease and desist.

Item ten is to open discussion to any other business.

10. Other business:

SBR asked for a status report on the Foundation sky bridge and urban wildlife sanctuary. GHR responded

There has been a lawsuit filed by the Foundation versus the City of Huntsville to force protection of the last piece of natural creek in Huntsville. They are attempting to defraud the government via FEMA by calling the natural creek a blighted flood zone that needs to be covered over in concrete.

JRM moved to adjourn the meeting. GHR seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Signed,

Margaret Anne Russell,
Secretary

**ETHICIAN FOUNDATION BOARD MINUTES
26 NOVEMBER 2015**

ATTACHMENT:

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD: AGENDA ITEMS
SUBMITTED TO BOARD JUST PRIOR TO MEETING 26 NOVEMBER 2015
By GEORGE H. RUSSELL, PRESIDENT:

1. Agenda item one was to read and approve the board meeting minutes from the year prior.
2. Discuss and take action on managing wildlife sanctuaries, botanical preserves and museum collections owned by The Universal Ethician Church.
3. Discuss and take action on agreeing to accept the donation of 4.33 acres in the City of Huntsville as an asset to be sold in order to raise funds for the completion of ongoing foundation museum projects and to purchase 500 acres adjacent to Palmetto Creek in order to protect both sides of the creek from development or other exploitation.
4. Discuss strategies for dealing with corrupt tax authorities in San Jacinto County.
5. Discuss fund raising projects in progress including donations to be used to continue surfacing trails with rock and eventually concrete to accommodate handicapped visitors and for fire and poacher control.
6. Discuss how to involve the Bayou Land Conservancy in accepting conservation easements on foundation properties not yet under perpetual protection from development.
7. Discuss how best to coordinate our scientific study efforts with the biology departments of various universities.
8. Discuss how best to formalize the foundation's INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC BIOSPHERIC STUDIES as an adjunct to the US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE and university systems worldwide.
9. Discuss what actions to take on behalf of God's Garden Parkway, currently managed by the foundation and under attack by Waterwood Improvement Association.
10. Any other new business.

George H. Russell
President