



A. On March 31, the initial Board of Directors of Stronghold Center, Inc., voted on these:

1. Accepted the Bylaws and Conflict of Interest Policy
2. Decided Annual meeting date to be March 31 [*so we could bring on new Board member, below*]
3. Approved new Board member, Lolly Dominski of Chicago Presbytery, so she could participate in decisions, including officers:
 - o Chair - Terry Mohaupt
 - o Vice Chair - Ray Lantz
 - o Secretary - Howard Strong
 - o Treasurer - Lolly Dominski
4. Fiscal Year will be Calendar Year

B. From Executive Director, Danny Pierce [=I supplied additional notes-tm*]**

As of March 20, Stronghold Camp is closed to the public [*until further notice. When we do open, visitors will see the remodeled entry/reception area.**]

- 1) **Summer Camp 2020** [*Because we cannot start up from zero when the quarantine is lifted, preparation continues.**]
 - i) To date we have hired 8 international staff and 3 domestic staff. Of the 11 staff, 6 are returning. However, with the CV19 outbreak, issues of international staff being able to arrive on time are now in play. All international staff hiring is on hold.
 - ii) We are looking at 3 possible Summer Camp Models:
 - (1) Summer Camp runs as normal. Staff Training begins May 27th, first camp June 12th
 - (2) No Summer Camp due to the outbreak and/or lack of Summer Staff
 - (3) A modified Summer Camp schedule based on the number of staff.
- 2) **Paving**
 - a) Design work has been completed. Call for bids went out in mid-February & bids closed on March 3rd. Martin & Company was awarded the contract with a low bid of \$144,000. They also will make a \$5000 donation back to Stronghold upon completion. We are looking at having the work done in August after summer camp.
 - b) Still waiting on the Hansen donation working its way through the estate.
- 3) **Donor thanks** - All donor thank you/tax letters for end-of-the-year giving were sent out in mid-February.
- 4) **Website** - A new website designed by *Northwest Quarterly* of Rockford is in the process. We are in hopes of having it completed and up and running by the end of April.
- 5) **Additional Updates:**
 - a) **Fund Development Coach:** I have been having weekly sessions (zoom) with a Fund Development Coach. The sessions are for 3 months (Feb, March, April). We have an established plan & goal for an annual fund development program of \$150,000. To date, we have received 2 commitments for \$10,000 gifts in December, a \$1,000 commitment & a donor pledging \$10,000 to begin a mattress replacement program.



- b) In dealing with the economic impact of the CV19 outbreak, Stronghold has experienced *[more than*]* \$42,000 in cancelations. This is a major challenge to the sustainability of Stronghold. I'm working on a 6-point plan to pursue options to survive this event.
 - i) Church Mutual Loss of Income Insurance for Disasters. I've been in contact with our insurance rep. and while it might be a long shot, he encouraged me to contact the claims office and follow up with submitting a claim(s). *[Danny has done that.*]*
 - ii) *[Pursuant to the CARES Act*]* US Small Business Administration Assistance in Response to the Coronavirus. *[PPP or Disaster Relief loan or Unemployment. Danny has completed applications and pursued a relationship Rep. Kinzinger's office for help*]*
 - iii) Assistance from the Presbytery of Chicago *[Chicago Presbytery will donate \$25,000. * THANK YOU!]*
 - iv) Assistance from Presbytery of Blackhawk *[in consultation with Eric and Nancy Dolan and Sara Dingman*]*
 - v) Fund-Raising Campaign *[cf. a) above: An additional \$20,000 donation will arrive the first full week of April, along with a \$2,000 annual pledge. *]*
 - vi) Inquiry with our bank for a loan/line-of-credit. *[Danny has continued to develop a relationship with the local banker. *]*
- 6) *[Danny is working with our attorney on applications for County tax exempt status and IRS 501(c)(3)]**

C. Two final points for you to consider:

1. I intend to request through the Presbytery Council that the Stronghold Endowment be amended to allow us access to more of its money during this trying time. Provisions could be negotiated.
2. With the loss of business due to COVID-19, I think it is reasonable to anticipate that I might request an extension beyond our original December 31, 2020, deadline for the separation of Stronghold Center, Inc. from Blackhawk Presbytery. We still have time to see what will happen.

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**Upcoming Events:**

- **June 12-July 26**, Different camps planned every week *[cf. 1)ii) above\*]; e.g.—*
  - June 12-14: Grandcamp
  - June 21-July 24: wide variety of children's camps
  - July 24-26, Family Camp
- **August 2021** - Strong Family Reunion *[postponed from 2020]*

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