

MINET: Finance committee disbanded after controversy

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Clyne's second request to Butsch was to have the finance committee consider a new meeting location, one that would allow it to meet beyond 5 p.m. in case discussions carried longer than anticipated.

Meyer said sometimes discussion did take longer because members of the finance committee had trouble staying on task.

"We're trying to (look at pricing); we're trying to bring you a recast budget," Meyer said on March 26. "When topics come up in left field, like selling MINET, I'm happy to have those discussions, but things like that are distractions. ... I'm not going to let the meetings get hijacked on topics and not get to the financials when that is why we're there."

At the end of the March 26 meeting, the board agreed to cancel the finance committee until a new charter could be crafted, which was done on April 14.

Both Clyne and McClure said the finance committee should be ready to go with its new charter, which removed the committee's ability to make decisions or spend money, and made it clearer that it is an advisory committee.

However, the true intentions of the committee remain muddled.

MINET finance committee

June 26, 2014: MINET's board of directors decide to form three committees to help MINET, Marketing, Technology and Finance committees.

July 24, 2014: MINET's advisory committees are formed.

Aug. 28, 2014: Ben Meyer, Doris Johnston, Gary Van Horn, Mark Dumire and Gloria Butsch are appointed to the finance committee with a unanimous vote by the MINET board of directors.

October 2014: Finance committee begins meetings.

February 2015: Finance committee chairman Meyer asks the MINET board of directors for more variety in members on the finance committee, noting he would like "less political debate."

March 26, 2015: MINET board of directors disbands the finance committee.

April 14, 2015: MINET board of directors revises the charter for the finance committee, removing words which granted the committee any authority, making it clearly stated as an advisory committee.

"The point of this group is to help MINET," McClure said on Thursday. "Frankly, we have enough politics at the board level, you don't have to bring the finance committee into this."

On Thursday, Clyne said he emailed Butsch regarding the finance committee agenda in efforts to remain transparent — emails between public employees are public record.

"I could have very privately had that conversation, but didn't," Clyne said, noting that his requests

to her were made because Butsch works for him in a city manager-finance director relationship.

The fact that he also is the MINET board chairman communicating with a member of an allegedly independent finance advisory committee was just part of the nature of MINET, Clyne said.

The position of MINET's board chair rotates between the city managers of Monmouth and Independence, according to MINET's charter.

Each city manager must wear

"Everybody is accountable for MINET. You should be doing everything in your power to make it better."

— Scott McClure,

MINET board vice chairman and Monmouth city manager

two hats when it comes to MINET.

McClure, now the vice chairman of MINET, said he didn't think it was appropriate for a quorum of the finance committee to have email correspondence.

Clyne said joining a committee does not remove the right to communicate with each other.

"People email about business all the time," Clyne said. "Whether email violates the public meetings law, I don't know."

Clyne said that Gary Van Horn, Doris Johnston and Butsch, the three committee members involved in the email chain, were working toward clarification about choosing the committee chair.

"The idea of public meetings law is matters of public importance," he said. "You always have preparation for a meeting. You don't do that publicly or the meetings would last forever. That's fair discussion."

McClure said more direction will need to be given to the next finance committee regarding communication with each other and how to operate.

The emails between a quorum was "not effective at all," McClure noted. "It should have been addressed at a meeting, or to him (Meyer) directly. It's just bad form."

The political divide on the MINET board is nothing new, both McClure and Clyne agree.

McClure said it's unfortunate. "Everybody is accountable for MINET," he said. "You should be doing everything in your power to make it better."

Clyne said "good fences make good neighbors," but when it comes to MINET, "We're joined at the hip," and have to try and work together.

The MINET board of directors will meet at 7:30 a.m. Thursday at the Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St.

OBITUARIES

JoAnn Luthe

March 28, 1931 – April 17, 2015

JoAnn Luthe, 84, of Salem died April 17 after a long illness.

She grew up in Dallas and lived in many communities throughout Oregon before settling in Salem in the mid-1960s.

Jo worked many years as a waitress, a job she loved, until her and Ed, her husband of 57 years, opened Salem's first wicker store "The House of Twigs." A savvy business woman with a strong work ethic, Jo eventually opened a clothing store that was dedicated to offering fashionable choices

to women with fuller figures, "Tops and More."

The store expanded to include imported and household items and the name was changed to "Tops & More Gifts Galore."

With her genuine smile, sense of fashion, and signature "big

glasses," Jo was a woman who made a lasting impression. She had an uncanny ability to lighten any room she entered.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward.

Survivors include her sis-

ter, Patricia Swenson of Dallas; sons, Randy of Kent, Wash., and Rick and Russ, both of Salem; and one granddaughter.

At her request no service will be held. Her wish was that friends would to take an afternoon and visit a shut-in.

Keizer Funeral Chapel handled arrangements.

Patricia Ann Autry

June 9, 1949 – April 13, 2015

Patricia Ann Autry, 65, of Dallas died April 13 in Dallas.

Patricia was born in Tacoma, Wash., to Billie and Betty Staggs.

She married Thomas L. Autry in Vancouver, Wash., and

had worked as a homemaker. Patricia had lived in Dallas for 32 years.

Survivors include her parents, Billie and Betty Staggs; daughters, Bobbi, Melody, April, and Summer; son, Kevin; 12 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial service was Saturday at Salt Creek Baptist Church.

Arrangements in care of Farnstrom Mortuary in Independence.

To send an online condolence: www.FarnstromMortuary.com.

Franklin Leroy Miller

Feb. 24, 1944 – April 22, 2015

Franklin Leroy Miller, 71, of Monmouth died April 22.

He was born to Theron and Virginia Miller in Portland.

Franklin graduated from Central High School in 1962, and worked as a mechanic and service station attendant.

He married Joanne Kauff-

man on July 26, 1975, at First Presbyterian in Independence.

Franklin loved his wife and family and family get-togethers. He loved to talk and tell stories from younger years, playing horseshoes and pool. He enjoyed traveling to Hawaii, Alaska, Arizona, and to the Oregon Coast. He had a giving spirit, helping out many people.

Franklin was a member of First Baptist Church of Independence. He enjoyed his church and loved the Lord.

Celebration of life is May 9 at 1 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 1505 Monmouth St., Independence.

Farnstrom Mortuary in Independence handled arrangements. To send an online condolence: www.FarnstromMortuary.com.

Karen L. VanCamp

Feb. 21, 1952 – April 10, 2015

Karen L. VanCamp, 63, died April 10.

She was born to Albert and Eva VanCamp and was sister of Mike, Richard, Larry and Patrick, and sister and triplet to Danny and Kathleen.

She was mother to Phillip Reed and Aimy Wilson and grandmother to two grandchildren.

Karen enjoyed music, flowers and dancing. She also loved to play bingo.

Service is Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. at The Majestic on Main Street in Dallas.

Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center of Dallas handled arrangements. To send an online message: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

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2015 Relay for Life of Polk County
Sponsors Step Up For Survivor Dinner

The 2nd annual Survivor Dinner is taking place at Eola Hills Wine Cellars the evening of Saturday, May 2. For those of you Polk County residents who have survived cancer or are currently in treatment, Relay For Life invites you and one guest to an evening of a complimentary dinner and entertainment. For more information, contact Vicki Bailey at 503-623-5241 or vickibaile@aol.com

How is it possible to treat survivors to this special evening? It's because of the generosity of our sponsors who appreciate the courage and strength these survivors have shown in their fight against cancer. Without the support of sponsors such as Eola Hills, White's Collision, the Itemizer, and Van Wells, this night of food, music, and gifts could never happen. A thank-you goes out also to our sponsor, Dallas Aquatic Center, for hosting the most recent Survivor/Caregiver Swim on April 19.

Please join us in thanking our most recent sponsor, along with the following businesses, health care professionals, families, and organizations for their commitment to Relay For Life and its mission to find a cure: Western Days ~ Rabbit's

- West Valley Hospital
- West Valley Physicians & Surgeons Clinic/Dr. John Hadley
- West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic/Dr. Alison Smith
- Monmouth Medical Center/Dr. Charles Essex
- Eola Hills Wine Cellars
- The Majestic
- Les Schwab Tire Centers of Dallas, West Salem, & Independence
- White's Collision Service
- Dallas Aquatic Center
- Limeberry Frozen Yogurt
- American Outdoors
- Polk County Itemizer-Observer
- South View Medical Arts
- First Community Credit Union
- Dallas Retirement Village
- Matthew Woolsey, DMD
- NW Natural
- Monmouth-Independence Rotary
- Dallas Glass & Window
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Relay For Life 2015 will take place May 30-31, 10am to 10am at LaCreole Middle School in Dallas

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