

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Final Minutes Board of Trustees Meeting

October 22, 2017

Call to Order: 12:40 by Kathy Campbell

Board members present: Kathy Campbell, Dave Rockwood, Nancy Sullivan

Other attendance: Barbara Michael, Susy Swanson, Tom Sullivan, Jane Harris, Jamie Kuehnl, Heidi Gould

Opening words: Kathy Campbell read from Singing the Living Tradition.

Open forum remarks:

Susy Swanson ordered a flagpole for the front of the church for the Gay Pride flag. \$250 was approved to complete the purchase and installation of the pole. Susy Swanson was thanked for her efforts and donation of \$100 toward this purchase. Discussion centered around the pole being able to withstand winds of 76 mph and placement a safe distance from lighted sign.

Approval of Minutes: Briefly reviewed. Nancy offered one additional correction to the already revised minutes to the effect that August expenditures had exceeded receipts by \$2737.61 not \$1947.87.

Approval of Agenda: So moved by Dave, seconded by Nancy, all agreed.

Treasurer's report: Reviewed two handouts: Statement of activity, Sept. 2017

Statement of Financial Position, Sept. 2017

Concern was expressed that the Budget vs Actuals for Sept 2017 report was not included as it was last month, making certain comparisons impossible. Nancy calculated that September expenditures had exceed receipts by \$606.86 which is an improvement over the August deficit. Heidi noted that monthly deficits were run eleven out of twelve months last year.

Heidi requested that there be clear delineation of her role and the treasurer's. Nancy agreed to follow up with Heidi and others on this issue. Nancy inquired about the sending out of quarterly statements on pledge donations to the congregation and was informed that that had occurred. She expressed concern that a number of people may not pay their pledges and are drifting away.

Last month Gary Stark noted that \$67,360 needs to be added to our liability portion on our Statement of Financial Position. That change was not been made to the report. Dave noted that he was grateful for Gary's willingness to take on a complicated role with a steep learning curve. Getting some help from the finance committee on cutting expenses was discussed.

The question was raised about whether or not to continue with Sharing such a large proportion of our unpledged contributions given our cash flow issues. After a brief discussion, the Board suggested they discuss it when gg gordon was present and after some data has been collected on our donation patterns. The question was whether or not Share the Plate actually increases overall giving.

Religious Education Report- Jamie submitted a written report to the Board and described recent activities. Most notably, OWL for middle-schoolers started today with 14 teens enrolled. Discussion revolved around charging for OWL in the future and asking current participants for donations after Christmas.

Board Liaison Reports:

Building and Grounds: Rockwood reported that exterior building work had started and is expected to be completed in the coming week. No report from Anne Stark was available on paving bids. Rockwood was asked to contact her. It may be too late to do the paving now.

Dave is leading a process to develop a signature project to honor Joan Steindler's gift to the congregation. He will be bringing an architect to look at our Sanctuary Nov. 1 to get some ideas. Those interested are invited to attend.

Communications: No report. It was noted that \$110 was spent to advertise the movie at PWPL for the Bend the Arc series which had to be cancelled due to double room booking. It was agreed that no advertising in the Word on the Street online magazine would be done due to expense and certain comments now being made within it. Concern was expressed that no report from the President or the Board has been written for the Chronicle since June.

Community support and Outreach: Kathy Campbell feels that RATI and Bend Arc are great outreach activities. The Soup Dinner fundraiser for JJ Packs is being organized and will be run by Jamie Kuehnl and the RE committee.

Membership Committee: Cindy Brown joined in the past month, bringing members to 42. Nancy and Anne are planning a newcomer gathering to follow the service on Oct. 29. Four have joined since the spring, but others are drifting away for varying reasons. Some of this is normal flux. Nancy has focused on taking newcomers for coffee or walks, and writing those who have drifted away. Nancy plans to leave for three months starting Nov. 1 and is greatly concerned about the follow-up of newcomers. Jane Harris offered help with this. Other people were suggested to Nancy.

Faith in Action: No report.

Finance committee: No report.

Music: Barb will be leaving in December for some months. She has worked to provide coverage for music in her absence. Jane Harris will be interim volunteer music coordinator. See Music report attached.

Religious exploration: See RE coordinator report above and attached.

Stewardship: No report.

Sunday service: See #1 under business.

Business

1. Tom Sullivan: The calendar of Sunday services is filled through March with the exception of two Sundays in January. Tom stated he has written his letter of resignation from chair of the committee, but has not yet written in an effective date. He says it is too difficult to continue as Sunday Service chair when he is away so much of the year. Jane Harris offered to join the committee. She offered to do a service aimed at increasing volunteerism at MUUC and having a “Worker Bee” to engage folks in helping in January. Discussion about the purchase of Soul Matters occurred and was strongly in favor.
2. Flag pole update – was moved up and handled during the forum remarks.
3. RATI follow up - No report on RATI experience, though Jamie notes that some items in the RE area are missing or misplaced. She will pack more things away next time. Laundry bags are still piled in the multi-purpose room.
4. BOT decisions by email – Nancy felt that email was still more effective than google drive because people are more responsive to the pressure of something showing up in their “In Box.” Pasting stuff into google drive is still worthwhile and giving the congregation a link so they can follow discussion. Anne will be asked to pursue this.
5. Vision for the year- Dave felt it was too late to form a vision, that it should have been done last summer and that it doesn’t make sense now. Nancy says in some ways we have a vision.... that we are focusing on self-care, congregational nurturance, celebrating those who do show up, building membership through personal outreach and having fun events, doing out-reach and social action through our Bend the Arc movie series and hosting RATI. Dave is leading a process to develop a signature project to honor Joan Steindler’s gift to the congregation.
6. Staff evaluations and annual raises: Heidi states that a wage increase was budgeted but not implemented despite receiving an excellent evaluation. Jamie confirmed that she has not received her budgeted wage increase nor has she received an evaluation. The BOT will work on this issue to bring resolution over the coming month. Jamie was asked for help in revising her job description and evaluation form.
7. Church calendar of fun activities:
 - The October church breakfast on 10/15 was considered a success.
 - A UU women’s party for Teri Rockwood was held Oct. 21 with 8 in attendance. While not planned as one of these special events, it was a fun event in which a newcomer, new member and one who has drifted away from the congregation attended along with other members.
 - The beer tasting party for Oct. appears unlikely to occur at this point.
 - Jamie is planning an Intergenerational game night for November 17.
 - Anne has been coordinating with Jamie to do a GingerBread House making activity.
 - Nancy will lead an art activity in March if she is here, or find somebody else to do so if she is not.

Nov. 12 will be the next Sunday breakfast. Thanks to Heidi for coordinating!
January 15 will be another breakfast.

8. No update on “Special Member recognition.”
9. The Board did not want to add signing up for announcements to the agenda at this point. It was felt that if a Board member wasn’t present, then the service leader could lead this portion.
10. **Next Board Meeting Date:** Nov. 12, 1 pm.

Closing Reading: Kathy Campbell read from Singing the Living Tradition.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:23 pm

NJS: 10/24/17