

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Board of Trustees Minutes, Tuesday, 08-15-23, 6:00 pm EST
Via Zoom

1. Call to Order: 6:14 p.m.
 - a. Attending: Jill Malin, Martin Steindler, Susan Urban
 - b. Absent: Andrea Stader
 - c. Others Attending: None
2. Opening words and chalice lighting
3. Open Forum

Martin reported a gathering at his house on 8/13 of five people.
4. Approval of Agenda: Martin moved to approve, Jill seconded, approved unanimously.
5. Approval of 7-18-23 BOT minutes and 7-31-23 Special Meeting minutes:

In 7-18-23 BOT minutes, Annual Program Fund bill from the UUA should have been \$300. Susan will amend. As amended, Susan moved to approve, Martin seconded, approved unanimously.
6. Spiritual Exploration Reports: SE and OWL: Nothing new, remove from the agenda until further notice.
7. Treasurer's Report - Jill
 - a. Review report from Jill

Smallest month ever. Utilities balance out this month, so final bills are often smaller.
 - b. Credits, Debits and Balances for this month

Incoming: \$1448.06, Outgoing: \$793.04.
Total funds available \$67,229.22, Mortgage balance \$42,290.48.
Status of janitorial services: Laura's check has not been cashed, and she has not been cleaning. Building looks fine, however. Jill will follow up with her to make sure she is OK.
 - c. Pledge Campaign progress for 2023-2024

\$8,820 in pledges, 12 members, 2 friends, so down 5 pledges.
 - d. Review and possible upgrade of Internet connection – Christie had committed to look into this. Christie was absent, Susan will email her.

Approval of Treasurer's report: Susan moved to approve, Martin seconded, approved unanimously.
8. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Website review and updates – Susan added approved minutes, will add those approved today and Treasurer's Reports. Christie had said she would work on the website with the goal of increasing membership participation and membership, and community involvement. Jill sent the final 2023-24 budget to Susan, who posted it on the MUUC website. Susan will follow up with Christie.

Jill and Christie had said they would work together on getting an accurate final budget. Done.
 - b. Use and organization of the Google Drive – Christie. Susan will follow up with Christie.
 - c. Monthly board meeting schedule: Next meeting: Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 6:00 p.m. Eastern via Zoom.

- d. Schedule: Service Leader, Topic, zoom host
 - i. 8/20/23 – Link to Keweenaw UU service.
 - ii. 8/27/23 – Link to Bay de Noc UU website.
 - iii. 9/3/23 Labor Day Weekend – Invite people to participate in a service to people in need – maybe at the warming shelter on Washington Street? Christie proposed this idea, the consensus was that it is a good one. Susan will follow up with Christie. Martin suggested that a Labor Day talk by Jim Jackson, a labor organizer who was connected with a woman who was a Unitarian, and is a former MUUC member, might be a good thing to present for the service. Martin will attempt to look up his Labor Day speech in the file cabinets at the building. Susan will see if she can find any of his speeches on the Internet. OR no service if no one is available to lead such a service.
 - iv. 9/10/23 - Triangle service with UU Petoskey.
 - v. 9/17/23 – Highly likely that Martin will not be in Marquette. Should we use the building to have a homecoming service this Sunday, have one online only, or have one at a different location TBD. Martin suggested that with so few members to “come home,” maybe we should skip a homecoming service this year. He suggested that Susan put a notice in the TNT asking about homecoming, if there are no responses, we will have a link to a service at Keweenaw UU instead. Susan will do this.
 - vi. Should we use the building for services through fall, or go to all online like Petoskey, maybe with occasional in person gatherings? The BOT consensus was that, due to low attendance, we not meet at the building, but instead continue to provide links to services at other churches, mostly our sister UP UU churches, but that once a month we hire a professional or semi-professional minister or service presenter to provide a Zoom service. There may also be gatherings at the homes of members on Sundays when there is only a link to another congregation’s service. Susan will contact Petoskey leadership for advice on being a Zoom only congregation.
 - vii. 9/24/23 – Possibly a professional or semi-professional minister or service presenter, or a link to Bay de Noc UU.
- e. Events – Shine Dance continuing through at least August 17. See proposal for extension under New Business.
Jill would like to do a scary movie party on Saturday, October 28, at about 7 p.m.
- f. Email discussion list – Christie – IO group, agreed to send notices to the membership list. Anything new on the IO group? No.
- g. Wall repair near sanctuary south side exit door and behind the nursery door – anything new from the Building Sale Committee? No, this will be handled in conjunction with advice from a realtor as to what repairs should be made.
- h. Implementing changes in fee structure for renting the sanctuary – Christie was to work with Susan to update information on the website, she noted that the congregation voted for the increase at the Annual Meeting. Anything new? Jill will follow up with Christie.
- i. Janitorial services. See above.
- j. Plan to sell the property: The first meeting of the Building Sale Committee was on Thursday, August 10. There was a good discussion and an assignment of tasks.

Signatories for the realtor listing contract are needed, the signing can be done online. That will be Jill and Susan for now. Next meeting of the committee is August 24, 2023, 6:30 p.m. at Martin's home. Realtor Gina Feltner Bouws will attend this meeting, either in person or via Zoom.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Installation of new Board of Trustees.

Election of Officers was tentatively set at the July 31 Special Meeting as follows:

President: Susan

Vice President: Martin

Secretary: Andrea

Treasurer: Jill

Martin moved to approve, Jill seconded, approved unanimously.

- b. Rhonda Jones asked if it would be possible to sign up for another 10 weeks of Shine Dance. She hopes to continue the class until 10/26/23 if possible.

Susan moved to approve, Martin seconded, approved unanimously.

- c. Discussion: Our goals, future, and strategic plan

- i. Ideas to promote MUUC during the period while waiting to sell the building.

Susan will contact UU Petoskey to see what they are doing.

- ii. Susan reiterated the idea of finding a professional minister to present a service via Zoom for MUUC once a month. She pointed out that we would have to pay such a minister or ministers more than our current \$50 stipend for service presenters. Jill and Martin both thought this was a good idea, since with not using the building some costs are down. Martin moved to approve, Jill seconded, approved unanimously.

Adjournment: 7:34 p.m.