

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Board of Trustees Minutes, Tuesday, 10-24-23, 6:00 pm EST
Via Zoom

1. Call to Order: 6:25
 - a. Attending: Jill Malin, Andrea Stader, Martin Steindler, Susan Urban
 - b. Absent: None
 - c. Others Attending: Mary Maki, CorieRichley, Christie Wagner
2. Opening words and chalice lighting
3. Open Forum

Use of the Building by Yooper Pagan Alliance? This is the same group that used to be hosted by Leanne Swan in the past. They used the space on a free will donation basis. The current contact is CorieRichley, crichley1@yahoo.com, 906 285-0585.

Corie doesn't know what CUUPS entails, whether this needs to be cleared by the UUA or not. She will look into it. Susan moved to approve, Andrea seconded, approved, three votes yes, one no.

Corie has a key to the building. Jill will be liaison for the group and will attend the first meeting on Saturday, November 11. Gathering will be at 3 or 4 p.m., ritual will be approximately 6–7 p.m., cleanup 8 to approximately 9 pm. This will be a Samhain ritual honoring the goddess Hecate.

Mary reminded the Board we had decided to allow UU guests to stay in our parking lot. Corie has members who have a camper who may wish to avail themselves of this convenience.
4. Approval of Agenda: Martin moved to approve, Jill seconded, approved unanimously.
5. Approval of 09-20-23 BOT meeting minutes: Andrea moved to approve, Jill seconded, approved unanimously.
6. Treasurer's Report - Jill
 - a. Review report from Jill

Credits, Debits and Balances for this month
Incoming: \$2,117.14, Outgoing: \$2,307.67
Balances: \$2,547.63 Checking
Attorney bill is \$350, Mining Journal 9/30 \$85 for annual student guide, Jill will stop automatic billing for this.
Status of janitorial services? Per Jill, Laura says she is ready to start cleaning for MUUC again.
 - b. Pledge Campaign progress for 2023-2024? Nothing new.
 - c. Review and possible upgrade of Internet connection – Christiewas going to look into this. Jill was to send Christie a copy of the bill so that she could follow up. Christie suggested we take this off the agenda since we are not doing Zoom services at the building for the foreseeable future. Board consensus was in agreement.
 - d. With Rev. Denise Tracy presenting for us once a month on first Sundays starting October 1, we needed to restore no-ad YouTube. Jill was to restore this. This has been done.
 - e. Approval of Treasurer's report: Susan moved to approve, Martin seconded, approved unanimously.
7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Website review and updates – Susan added minutes approved for the 8-15-23 BOT meeting. She has also added the newest Treasurer’s Reports. She also continues to do basic updates to events and upcoming worship sections.
Christie had said she would work on the website with the goal of increasing membership participation and membership, and community involvement. Susan sent the contact info for the webmaster of Petoskey UU to Christie to see if he has any ideas for her. No update. Christie will continue to try to get the website updated.
Christie created a new public Facebook page. Susan asked Christie, Andrea and Jill to invite people to like or follow the page. They agreed to do so.
- b. Use and organization of the Google Drive – Christie was to work on this. No updates. Christie asked if anyone was using the Google Drive. Jill has been using it occasionally. Susan will use it to post BOT meeting agendas. The Board consensus was to table this for now and pick it up again later as necessary
- c. Monthly board meeting schedule: Next regular meeting: November 21, 6:00p.m. Eastern via Zoom.
- d. Services Schedule: Service Leader, Topic, zoom host - other comments on services.
 - i. 10/29 - 11am - Fifth Sunday Fellowship with Petoskey UU and UU Gettysburg, PA, on Principles 7 & 8.
 - ii. Sunday, November 5 - 11am - Our second service via Zoom with our once a month minister through at least the end of the year, Rev. Denise Tracy, "Be the One." Teri Rockwood will be Zoom host and Worship Assistant. Rev. Tracy has already submitted her order of service. Jill and Christie said Rev. Tracy’s first service for MUUC was not very well attended. Discussion below under New Business about trying to increase participation, especially for her services.
 - iii. 11/12 - 11am - Triangle Service with Petoskey and Bay de Noc UUs, with Rev. Alice Diebel, “Kinship Around The World.”
 - iv. 11/19/23 – Link to service at Keweenaw UU.
 - v. 11/26/23 -Thanksgiving Sunday - Link to a service at another church or no service. On the idea that it will not hurt anything to post a recommended UU service link, Susan will find a link, possibly to a Thanksgiving service.
 - vi. 12/3/23, third service with Rev. Denise Tracy, service topic “A Reflection on The Middle East: A Prayer for Peace.” She would like to have someone do live music from the peace era of the 60's and 70's if at all possible. Susan is not available. Andrea said she would be able to do this via Zoom. Susan will send Denise’s request to her.
 - vii. Sunday gatherings at the homes of members or at other places in Marquette that can accommodate a small group. Jill was to look into The Crib on Third Street, Contrast Coffee, and Superior Stay Hotel on the corner of Third and Fair. Contrast Coffee has no separate room. At The Crib, there is a room, but it is upstairs. Superior Stay Hotel has been reconfigured and does not have an appropriate space. Suzy Swanson has some ideas, Jill will work with her.
 - viii. Anyone’s home available for an in person gathering once a month or so? Not right now.
- e. Events – Shine Dance will move to another facility as of October 24th. Facilitator now has a job at NIU, and will get paid for the dance sessions.

- f. Jill proposed a scary movie party at the building on Saturday, October 28, at about 7 p.m. As of last month, Jill had not heard back from the ALANO group, so this may not happen. Any updates? No – remove from agenda.
- g. Email discussion list – Christie – IO group - The consensus last month was that we should put a link to this discussion group on the MUUC website with an explanation of how it works. Christie will do this before the next BOT meeting.
- h. Implementing changes in fee structure for renting the sanctuary – form on website needs updating. Christie was working on this. She will work on this before the next BOT meeting. We will figure out next month what to put on the form about a cleaning fee. Jill said it was \$75. Christie had understood that the cleaning fee was non-refundable.
- i. Does Jill have the contract back from the Northwoods Learning Hub?
Yes, they paid up front, \$120 per day up from \$100. They are self-cleaning, so no cleaning deposit is necessary for them.
- j. Plan to sell the property: Any updates from the Building Sale Committee?
Attorney Scott Stensaas provided comments. Jill suggested that we look at the contract right away. Mary suggested we not be in a hurry to sign the contract. Jill said the property will be difficult to sell because of zoning, so we need to get it listed as soon as possible. Martin also suggested that the Board should look at the contract sooner rather than later.

It was decided that on Monday, October 30, at 6 p.m. Eastern time, we will have a special BOT meeting to go over the contract and possible revisions. Susan will send out a notice no later than Wednesday, October 25 which will include the Board and all the members of the Building Sale Committee. Martin pointed out that we need to find out the best recommended beginning sale price. Susan will ask this in her notice about the special meeting. Jill will ask Nicolet Bank about the appraised value from the last refinancing.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion: Our goals, future, and strategic plan
 - i. Northwoods Learning Hub wants to know if we are open to renting the space to them for their winter session. The dates for winter session are Jan 9 - Mar 26. They need to have confirmation by Thanksgiving. Jill has been in touch with them. Christie suggested that if by chance the building sold, we could encourage negotiation between NLH and the buyer. Susan moved to approve, Martin seconded, approved unanimously. Jill will inform NLH of the Board's decision.
 - ii. Disposition of meeting house contents once building is sold. Teri Rockwood had sent an email suggesting that renting a storage unit might be the most practical option. The consensus was that this is a decision that will need to be made no sooner than when we have a firm sale offer for the property. We will table until then.
 - iii. Any more Ideas to promote MUUC during the period while waiting to sell the building and we will be mostly a Zoom only congregation?
Susan will send notices to Bay de NocUU to come to Rev. Tracy's services since they have no first Sunday service.
 - iv. Are there places on the Internet that could be used to list/promote Marquette events? There is Reddit, which is worldwide.

- v. Ad in the Mining Journal is seemingly ineffective? They do have an online community calendar:
<https://www.miningjournal.net/news/community/2016/11/marquette-community-calendar/> Jill will look into this.
- vi. Marquette Monthly? The deadline is the tenth of the previous month. The deadline for December is November 10 for the December 3 service. They have an online edition. <https://marquettmonthly.com/> Andrea will look into this.
- vii. Radio or TV stations with community calendars? No one knows of any.
- viii. Mary and Christie discussed the recent article on the front page of the Mining Journal.

Adjournment: 8:11 p.m.