

First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2015

I. Call to order

Mike Illescalled to order the regular meeting of the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis Board of Trustees at 6:30 p.m. on January 28, 2015 in the Dietrich Room.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Mike Illes (chair), Martha Hardesty (vice-chair), Allan Callander (treasurer), Sue Tincher (secretary), Madalyn Cioci, Scott Eller, JD Rickard, Joyce Riedesel, Nick Rowse, Rev.David Breeden, Jim Foti (assistant minister) and Laura Park (consultant).

III. Announcements/Appreciations

The following were appreciated: everyone who came out for the 4th Sunday Concert which was a great success; Sue Tincher for running the December meeting due to chair and vice-chair's illness; Joyce Riedesel for taking the minutes in December; Melanie Willett for writing detailed RE reports.

IV. Consent agenda

JD Rickard moved to approve the consent agenda, and Joyce seconded. The motion passed to approve the consent agenda, including:

- Minutes of the 12/17/14 Board of Trustees meeting.
- Recognition of new FUS members Stephanie Arbesfeld, Gerald Meader, Cheryl Moline, Caitlin Boley, and Russ LaPlante.

V. Reports and Discussion

a) Laura Park presented “Nested Bowls” model: Laura Park, an acquaintance of Jim Foti's, is a consultant on congregational governance with Unity Consulting, and she said that the perfect time to think about our mission statement is before the capital campaign is begun. She talked about the need to identify our values, mission and ends (that is, where do we want to be in five years). She noted that you need to get at least 30% of the congregation involved in the conversation and it will take 6 to 12 months. David noted that our identity is a little clearer than most churches, since we are first and foremost humanist. Laura advises us to have a new conversation about what it means to be humanist. Having clearly articulated values, mission and ends could help us make better decisions.

- b) Treasurer's Report/December Financials:** Treasurer Allan Callander reported that pledge revenue for the month of December was \$20,000 short of budget. Total revenue for the month was \$58,700. Also, expenses came in significantly over budget, at \$63,700. Allan reviewed the UUA's extensive list of questions regarding membership numbers, pledge numbers, and similar items, and we approved the answers. Allan talked to us about the designated fund drawdown. Allan moved that \$16,000 be taken out of various designated funds this month, in the following amounts: Service Auction - \$1,000; Seasonal Celebrations - \$3,000; Library - \$1,500; Bookstore - \$1,500; RE - \$2,000; Social Justice - \$2,000; Membership - \$2,000; and Music - \$3,000. Scott seconded. The motion passed. Allan stated that he has developed a policy for handling bequests—he will share it with the Board next month. Right now, if a bequest check comes in that is written to the Foundation, it goes to the Foundation. If a check comes in that is from a Friend of the Foundation but not specified to the Foundation, it still goes to the Foundation. If a check comes in just written to the Society, it goes into Board operating expenses. Sue made a motion that we designate \$2,200 of our operating reserves for Jim Foti's ordination budget. Martha Hardesty seconded. The motion passed. Allan estimates that there is an \$8,700 savings if we do not fill the social justice position vacated this month by Shannon Williams. He estimates that if we hire a building manager mid-February through the end of the year, it would cost \$12,900.
- c) Stewardship/Capital Campaign:** Scott Eller reported on the Stewardship campaign. It will be six weeks long, and starts on February 1. We currently have \$450,000 in total congregational support, and we would like to reach \$500,000. Joyce shared the progress of the Capital Campaign Task Force. One question that arose from the Capital Campaign Task Force was whether there should be naming privileges for donations. Mike will send an email around to the Board and we will have an email vote on this question.
- d) Minister's Report:** Minister David Breeden said that Kelli Clement is between jobs for the spring, and that she would be available to be our interim social justice coordinator for that time for \$6,500.
- e) Assistant Minister:** There was a question from the insurance company about the valet parking plan. But Ed Kodet from next door would be happy to let us use his parking lot, if the insurance gets figured out.
- f) Governance Task Force: Draft of Space and Place Policy.** Madalyn reported on the Space and Place Policy draft. Changes to shared spaces would need to come to the Board. There would be an Aesthetics Team. We would recruit some people to start up the Aesthetics Team, the Board would present the slate, and

then people would be on for two years. There were various changes suggested—Madalyn will make these and bring it back to the Board. Madalyn also has some ideas for improving the role of the nominating committee.

g) Member concerns: A new person would like to hear more variety of music. Someone would like to have more of a sense of the people in our history.

h) Service Auction Proposals. Martha moved that the 50% of the Service Auction proceeds that are used for building needs fund the Building and Grounds proposal for replacing as many light bulbs in the building as possible with LED bulbs. The motion passed.

VI. Adjournment

Mike Illesa djourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

VII. 8 things to know

1. Service auction proposals approved.
2. Consultant Laura Park talked about Nested Bowls.
3. Stewardship campaign commences.
4. 17 new members for New Member Sunday in February!
5. Space and Place Policy being developed.
6. Staffing changes happening.
7. Jim's Ordination budget approved.
8. Think about running for the Board.

VIII. Task list

- a) Follow up with Marcy – Allan
- b) Mike will send around an email about naming rights.
- c) Mike and Madalyn will put together a Governance Committee meeting next month.

Minutes submitted by: Sue Tincher