

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees
Thursday, August 27, 2020

Board Members Participating

Robert South, president; Heather Winn, vice-president; Karen Hall, secretary; Eleanor Allen, treasurer; Shannon Starkweather Burke, Catherine Burns, Rebecca Carr, Joanne Harter, Trustees

Also Participating

Pastor Marty Pelham; Harriet McMillan, Till Fritzsching (Bldg & Grnds reports) Angelo Guarino (during Treas. report)

Opening

Everyone present checked in. Robert called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Marty lit the chalice.

Minutes (Karen)

Eleanor moved to accept the minutes from the July 16 and Aug. 6 meetings, seconded by Rebecca; motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (Eleanor)

Eleanor introduced Angelo Guarino, our new accountant. Eleanor reported that the \$ 1350 insurance check (to cover organ damage) bounced at the Americu credit union and we were assessed a \$ 28 bank fee as a result. Till will be asked to contact the insurance company to re-issue the check. Angelo will contact Americu to request that the \$ 28 be returned to our account.

Eleanor stated that Interfaith Impact, a lobbying group in NYS, has disbanded and All Souls' \$ 100 donation was returned. UUs are currently forming a similar group, but Marty recommended delaying a donation for now.

The Treasurer has reviewed the statements to assure they are reconciled, and the statement will be filed for audit.

When asked about our past bookkeeping records, Mario noted "no improprieties, just genuine errors due to lack of knowledge with the way the accounting program worked." Also, he said that our current "multiple accounts" are of no benefit. Eleanor will notify the BOT later re: closing superfluous accounts and bringing them into general fund.

Minister's Report (Pastor Marty)

Marty's preaching schedule is set; they plan to travel to FL in Feb. 2021, depending on COVID status, but they could lead worship from there, if needed. Upon passing the MFC exam this fall, they could be ordained anytime, including in 2021.

Vice President's Report (Heather)

The Rodgers organ was given to Douglas Campbell, of Fulton, a former Rodgers tech who repairs organs and donates them to needy churches. ASUUC's organ had originally been donated in 1987 by Carolyn Mahana in memory of her husband, Leonard. The plaque that was on the organ has been saved. Rebecca noted that preliminary plans are for the pit (where the organ was seated) to be filled in and the floor made level, to avoid a tripping hazard. The large, heavy speakers will also be given to Mr. Campbell; Till will arrange for the speakers to be moved from their current location.

President's Report (Robert)

Some items in Robert's written report were addressed later in the meeting. A request from Ticia Marra Aumell to use the grand piano as the scene of a photo shoot for a senior photo next month initiated a discussion re: use of the church during its re-construction. By BOT consensus, the process is now: 1) Request is made to an Executive Committee member, 2) Committee member contacts all other EC members plus Till, via email, 3) Till okays or denies the request and informs all EC members via email, 4) EC member initially contacted by requester relays Till's decision via email.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Buildings and Grounds/Project Manager's Report (Till)

Upon Till's recommendation, **Eleanor moved to accept Big D's contract of \$ 3,800 for snow removal this coming season; Rebecca seconded. Motion passed.** This company provided snow removal, at the same price, last year.

Rebecca and Harriet have been scouting for new furniture & kitchen cabinets, with input from Chris Schneider. Till reported that Diego's crew has put up the drywall; antifungal spray is being used to prevent fungus. The skylight in the foyer is leaking and roofer Stan Tibbles will be contacted to look at it. Also, Till met with Chris Coughlin; with his health regained, Chris will begin work at ASUUC 2 days a week, emptying trash, cleaning bathrooms, doing grounds work. By consensus, the BOT deemed that the supervisor of the sexton is to be chosen by the Bldg & Grnds Committee.

Worship Committee Report (Eleanor)

The committee's retreat in July and a subsequent meeting in August were productive.

Social Action Committee Report: (Karen)

After two meetings and research conducted by Shannon, the committee recommended posting a Black Lives Matter banner on one of the church's exterior walls. **Karen moved to purchase the 4' X 8' banner from M & M Press, of Hamilton, NY, at a cost of \$ 82.50. Heather seconded. Motion passed.** Shannon will make the arrangements.

Harriet noted that she received a nice thank you note from Rande Richardson, executive director of the Northern New York Community Foundation, for the church's donation of \$ 525, designated for the COVID-19 Community Support Fund.

Memorial Garden Committee Report (Catherine)

Several members have contributed to work this summer on the garden; some whimsical decor has been added. Catherine was advised to seek the board's approval, if she and the group wish to re-locate the arbor outside the path.

Reports of Special Committees:

Building Use Request Form Committee Report (Rebecca)

The new BURF is ready for approval and use. Rebecca expressed a desire for more help w/ creating the reopening plan.

Policy Review Committee Report (Eleanor)

No progress to report; Rebecca's work is in draft form at this point.

New Business

1. Ad Hoc Interior Design Committee (Karen)

After some discussion, Karen moved that the BOT create an Ad Hoc Interior Design Committee that functions separately from, but works in consultation with, the Building & Grounds Committee, and that Rebecca Carr, Harriet McMillan, Chris Schneider and Joanne Harter be named to that committee. Heather seconded. Motion passed.

3. Board Retreat (Robert)

Robert's recommendation to focus a board retreat (date TBD) on policy review & reform was met with a suggestion to assign that topic to an ad hoc committee. Rebecca noted that she is currently working on policies. "Right relationships" is another potential theme. **Eleanor moved to postpone further discussion on the topic until the September BOT meeting; Joanne seconded. Motion passed.** Eleanor suggested inviting Evin Carvill to the retreat. Catherine will seek available dates in October from the Northern New York Community Foundation for a retreat at that building.

4. BOT Meeting Times

Karen moved to set Thursday, Nov. 19 and Thursday, Dec. 17, 9:30 a.m, as BOT meeting dates for those months. Eleanor seconded. Motion passed.

5. General Assembly Contest (Catherine)

Catherine moved that ASUUC volunteers create and submit a theme to the GA's contest; the winning theme will be used as the GA's 2001 convention theme. Karen seconded. Motion passed.

Follow Ups

1. Building Use

The recent Blood Drive was relocated from ASUUC to the Red Cross's own office.

2. Marty's Contract

Eleanor moved to approve the contract as previously discussed, with the stipulation that Marty lead 18 services per year. Heather seconded. Motion passed.

3. Right Relationships (Marty)

Marty reminded the board that productive conflict requires right relationships, and that finding common ground, compromising, and using "I" statements rather than "you" statements are important to those relationships. They urged the BOT to develop and implement a board covenant, and to consider the creation of a congregational covenant.

Checkout

The next meeting will be September 24 at 9:30 a.m, via Zoom. Robert adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

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