

Unitarian Society of New Haven
Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees
September 11, 2012

Accepted November 17, 2012

Board Members Present: Alison Cunningham; Thea Bourke-Martin; Gregg Burton; Sandra Frawley; Georgia Jennings; Alan Price; Margaret Rae, Jessie Whitehead

Board Members Absent: Russell Heinrich; Sue Linsley; Larry Rizzolo;

Also Present: Emily Melcher; Tansy Birenbaum

A. Price called the meeting to order at 7:08pm and G. Burton recorded the minutes. A quorum of Board Members was present, and the meeting proceeded with A. Price presiding.

Minutes

The minutes of the Board meeting on August 9, 2012 were reviewed. Several corrections were indicated.

MOTION by T. Martin to adopt the minutes from August 9, 2012 as amended; **SECONDED**; **PASSED** without dissent or abstention.

Updates on Facilities Matters

An effort is currently underway to secure a grant for the installation of an automatic external defibrillator at USNH. Several members will need to volunteer to be trained on the use of the device. Tansy is following up on the grant.

Michael Swan has prepared a proposal to construct and install handicapped accessibility ramps at various locations at USNH as his Eagle Scout project. This effort is being coordinated with the Building and Grounds Committee.

Board Vacancy

A. Price accepted the resignation of L. Rizzolo as a trustee. The Nominating Committee is considering candidates for appointment to replace L. Rizzolo.

Congregational Meeting

The regular congregational meetings were scheduled for November 11, 2012 and June 9, 2012.

Transition Team Update

E. Melcher updated the Board on the status of the Transition Team. Tracy Navarro Davis has been added to the Transition Team. E. Melcher is in conversation with a few additional people to be added to the Transition Team.

Kathleen McTigue Social Justice Fund

A. Cunningham asked the Board to consider parameters for the Kathleen McTigue Social Justice Fund. The Fund was established to support social justice efforts outside the typical budget items of the Social Justice Council. The Board discussed how the Fund should be managed and how funding requests should be evaluated. The Board considered whether the Fund should have a particular spend-down time frame. Concern was expressed that the funds be utilized in a way that increases the congregation's capacity to do social justice (e.g. funding workshops, conference attendance and training). It was also suggested that the fund might consider funding a USNH member's participation in a program offered by the College for Social Justice.

ACTION ITEM: A. Cunningham to draft a procedures and guidelines document to provide for a process and criteria for evaluation of applications by the Social Justice Council.

Board Start-Up Workshop

The Board Start-Up Workshop will be held on October 6 with a representative of the Clara Barton District. The purpose of the workshop is to identify priorities, procedures and responsibilities for the interim period. In preparation for the workshop, board members should review the interim ministerial application to give thought to narrowing the priorities. It was suggested that the board focus on initiatives rather than programmatic efforts. The Board discussed a commitment to reading "Governance and Ministry" by Dan Hotchkiss over the coming months.

ACTION ITEM: T. Birenbaum will arrange for food for the meeting.

ACTION ITEM: T. Bourke to circulate the Board priorities from the prior year.

Board Meetings

The Board discussed the time and location for Board meetings for 2012-2013. The October 10, 2012 Board meeting was cancelled in light of the Start-Up Workshop. Board meetings for the remainder of 2012 were scheduled as follows:

October 6 - Start Up Workshop at USNH

October 17 - 7:00pm in the Sanctuary at USNH

November 7 - 7:00pm at the home of Georgia Jennings (16 Round Hill Road, North Haven)

December 13 - 7:00pm in the Library at USNH

Treasurer's Report

S. Frawley presented the Treasurer's Report.

Solar Panel Proposal

G. Burton informed the Board that DCS Energy has a new solar panel program similar to the program that was proposed last year but expired before the Board could take action. G. Burton noted that last year, coordinating input from various committees and persons involved in order to formulate a proposal to the Board was challenging to accomplish within the time constraints. In order to pursue the current program further, G. Burton believed that the Board should specifically charge the committees and persons involved to take the actions necessary to pursue the installation of solar panels through the DCS Energy program.

MOTION by T. Bourke-Martin to charge the Green Sanctuary Committee and Building and Grounds Committee to take all actions necessary in coordination with G. Burton as the Board liaison to address any issues related to, and to assess, a proposal for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the sanctuary.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.