

FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY IN NEWTON
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
June 11, 2013

Present:

Board: Strom Thacker, Ann Woodbury, Jonathan Reuman, Michael Costello, Bobbie Sproat, Cathy Morocco, Absent: Charlie Watts, Maura Hess-Mahan, Erin Splaine

Staff: Perry Montrose

Clerk: Sheila Ardery

Strom Thacker provided an inspirational reading, "Aristotle" by Billy Collins, after the Board read the covenant and Strom lit the chalice.

Strom introduced the new members to the opening ceremony and covenant statement. Jonathan brought the vision statement and referred to it.

Bobbie asked what the Leadership Committee's purpose was and there was a discussion about its purpose and activities.

Introductions and Check In

The Board and Staff individually introduce themselves and related their interest in FUSN and the Board.

It was noted that Michael Costello and Maura Hess-Mahan will share the role of youth rep. on the Board.

Election of Officers

Strom nominated Charlie Watts as Chair of the Board. Charlie, though absent from the meeting, had earlier agreed to accept the nomination. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Strom nominated Bobbie Sproat for Vice-Chair. It was seconded and approved unanimously. Bobbie agreed to serve, on the understanding that she was not thereby committing to serve as Chair the following year. With Bobbie's endorsement, Strom continued to chair the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

The May 2013 minutes were approved without comment by email.

New Members

Susan Willing and Michael Costello were voted on and approved as new members by email.

Approval of New Staff and Committee Chairs

Meghan Cefalu was voted and approved as the new assistant minister for pastoral care and congregational engagement by email.

The following Committee members and chairs were nominated by Ann Woodbury and seconded and approved unanimously:

Operations Council continuing members

Jeannie Chaisson

Alan Cody

Laurel Farnsworth

Anne Hess-Mahan

Finance Committee co-chairs

Karen Bottar

Brian Gill

RE Council chair

Kim Shanks

Building and Grounds chair

Laurel Farnsworth

Council for Social Action new members

Dick Bail

Josie Greene

Youth member: Julia Severino

Committee on Ministry

Louis Atamian

Brian Gill

Liz Marshall

Bill Horne

(One more tbd at a later date)

Leadership Development Committee

Adrian Bishop

Jonathan Lillienfeld

Jonathan Yeo

Jonathan asked if we need to approve members of the Personnel Policy Committee. Strom said he would raise the issue with Charlie.

Staff Update

Perry gave a report on staff activities. He reported on RE Sunday the first Sunday in June which included teacher appreciation. This is meant to be an annual event going forward.

There are new Adult RE sessions being planned, such as "The Seven Sources," to be led by Jacqui James and Perry as well as other UU themed sessions.

Perry stated that the staff has done the calendar for the year with themes, services, etc. Jonathan asked if the calendar and themes could be given to the Board. There was discussion on how the themes intertwine with other activities of the month. It was suggested that the newsletter announce the theme.

There is an RE Open House planned for September 15th at 9:30 AM.

Administration of Board Activities

Strom referred to the BOT coverage for Sunday Service and explained the role of the Trustee. There is a calendar for Trustees to write an article for the newsletter. It was agreed that the youth Trustees may participate in the newsletter article rotation, if they are interested. There is a calendar for specific roles of Board meetings (snacks, summer services, etc). Strom will finalize the spreadsheet with contact information and these assignments and then pass it off to Charlie and/or Bobbie.

The date of the Annual Meeting will be June 8, 2014.

The fall retreat was discussed and it was decided to let Charlie and Erin solidify a date. The most promising dates appear to be Sept. 14th and the 21st. The regularly scheduled Board meeting will take place that day as well. The book "Raising the Roof" by Alice Mann was suggested as the focus of the retreat this year. The Board will consider bringing Doug Zelinski (from the UUA) back for a discussion of our current growth trajectory and what this means to FUSN and the Board. It was mentioned that a retreat focused on growth might include the Operations Council, particularly if Doug Zelinski returns to discuss our growth trajectory and progress.

Perry made the point that Board work has a developmental arc. Issues or needs emerge, we identify a strategy or begin a program, we oversee its effectiveness, then we reshape it or move it on. Different stages require different kinds of effort and resources.

Ann asked if we might consider beginning BoT meetings at 7:00pm instead of 7:30pm. Several board members said that would work for them, and one expressed doubts. This topic was postponed for later discussion when the full Board is present.

Strategic

Ann passed out a summary of our goals and accomplishments for the preceding year for the information of new members, and she reviewed the highlights. This document may serve as a guideline for the fall retreat's agenda and discussion, with an emphasis on strategy and implementation.

Close: Looking forward

A quick round of action items looking forward was summarized. These included locating the Alice Mann book (the book was located and loaned to Cathy Morocco), confirming the date and topic of the fall retreat, finding out if the Finance Committee will be holding an orientation session for new Board members, finalizing the schedule spreadsheet, and looking into any plans of the Leadership Development Committee training session.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Ardery
Clerk