

Unitarian Society of Ridgewood  
Board of Trustees Meeting: 4/3/17

Convened at 7 PM

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ATTENDEES: Willis, Smith, Duran, Nadler, McMurray, Krag, Nolan, Josefsberg, Brennan, Johanna Seale, Rev. Tony

*March BOT meeting minutes and March special meeting minutes approved by prior email.*

**1. Opening Words**

“The future we imagine will be a new thing ...and better than anything we can imagine.”

**2. Interim Minister’s Report (See Attached)**

Rev. Tony briefed all on the “stress within the denomination” regarding UUA hiring practices, the subsequent resignation of President Peter Morales, and the separate arrest on child pornography charges of Ron Robinson – a UU minister in Oklahoma. These events will produce “deep soul-searching.”

**3. DRE REPORT (See Attached)**

Two youth group members signed the Membership Book 28 days before the congregational vote on the new minister. Johanna asked the BOT to waive the requirement that an individual must have been a member for at least 30 days to participate in congregational votes. A motion to waive was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Johanna reported on a discussion within the RE Committee regarding accommodations for children with special needs. The discussion is on ongoing.

To allow adults to attend the service, RE classes will not be held on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Johanna informed the BOT of her intention to resign her position as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. She recommended that we employ an acting/interim RE Director to provide the new minister an opportunity to be involved in the upcoming search.

#### **4. CUC Meeting Update**

Rob advised that he had a “good meeting” with the CUC president and youth advisor regarding youth advisor compensation (as raised in the March meeting.) He pointed out that the CUC is “striving to become a fair compensation congregation” and that there are some “structural differences” between CUC and USR with respect to compensation and benefits. The CUC president will confer with his leadership.

#### **5. Treasurer’s Report (See Attached)**

Peter reported a positive month (31K ahead of budget.)

#### **6. Annual Budget Drive Update**

Peter provided a positive update. Sean asked about collecting for other causes during the budget drive. Rob called for creating a “culture of generosity” that avoids a zero sum game between the Society’s needs and other worthy causes.

#### **7. Grant Request Approval**

The BOT voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of the Endowment Fund Grant Committee (see attached.)

#### **8. 501c3 Status**

In the context of federal 501c3 requirements, the BOT returned to its February’s discussion about offering discounted building rental rates to emerging social/political action groups. BOT members reviewed a UUA document on “The Real Rules: Congregations and the IRS Guidelines on Advocacy, Lobbying, and Elections,” as well as Carol Loscalzo’s letter distinguishing discounted rental rates from “co-sponsorship.” All agreed on the importance of “not crossing a line” as defined by the IRS. Kevin will be meeting with the Social Responsibilities Council to clarify the BOT position.

#### **9. Public Relations**

Anticipating a newly settled minister, Rob referred to current public relation deficiencies and highlighted a need for a congregational team to strategically promote the USR within the wider

community. Sean described the scope of the challenge and volunteered to assist in exploring next steps.

#### **10. Fundraising Update**

Rob described a “good” discussion on 3/25 of approx. 15 congregants about alternatives to existing USR fundraisers. He referred to Peter’s suggestion that a series of “smaller events” would serve as well, if not better, than current fundraising mainstays.

#### **11. Staff Evaluation Plan**

Rev. Tony will evaluate professional staff. Rob and Bernie will be responsible for other employees.

#### **12. Upcoming Events**

MSR Town Hall -- April 9<sup>th</sup>

Candidating Week – April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30th

Adjournment 9PM

B. Josefsberg  
4/9/17