

Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

Board of Trustees Meeting: 2/13/17

Convened at 7 PM

ATTENDEES:

Willis, Duran, Smith, McMurray, Krag, Nolan, Nadler, Brennan, Josefsberg, Rev. Tony

1. Opening Words and Check In

2. BOT Goals: Technology

Sean initiated a discussion of this particular BOT goal by identifying 5 key principles that provide a road map for moving forward. [See attachment.] Taken together, these principles focus upon "people investment" rather upon capital requirements. Subsequent discussion noted that technology "means different things to different people" and that identifying "primary purposes" is critical for identifying next steps. Identified purposes for further discussion:

- Opportunity to grow membership
- Internal communications
- Easing financial transactions
- Cost Containment

3. Meet-up Group Site

Rob referred to a new member's suggestion that we initiate a "meet-up group" site via social media. Sean will follow up.

4. 2017-18 Budget

Peter led an initial review of our current budget as well as a budget planning document as a first step in preparing the '17-'18 year budget. The current budget assumes a \$45k deficit which should not be replicated. Among the other factors for consideration:

- No Fiber Fest revenue
- Settled minister compensation
- Compensation/benefit increases for existing staff
- Budget drive outcome
- Wish lists/Enhancements
- Physical plant needs

Discussion followed. Rob noted the importance of this year's fund drive in conjunction with the budgeting process ahead. All agreed that individual BOT members should model "Fair Share" giving in their own pledges.

5. Endowment Fund Contribution

Rob shared a thank you note from Sally Lewis for a C.A.M.P. donation through the Endowment Fund.

6. Social Action Group Rental Policy

Rob referred to the Society's mission as a reason for considering whether to offer discounted building rental rates to emerging social/political action groups. All agreed that the idea makes sense in principle but that a vetting mechanism is needed. Rev. Tony suggested that an ad hoc BOT sub-committee could serve this purpose.

Are emerging groups in need of meeting space? Jackie will report back from one such group in Wyckoff. Sean will do the same from another in Glen Rock. Additional feedback is anticipated from the upcoming meeting of the Social Responsibilities Council.

7. Interim Minister's Report (See Attached)

8. Executive Session

The BOT adjourned into Executive Session to discuss a confidential personnel item.

The BOT closed its Executive Session and reconvened to consider the following agenda items.

9. Anderson Hall Refurbishment

Speaking on behalf of several other Society members, Holly referred to the anticipated arrival of a new settled minister and the current condition of several décor aspects of Anderson Hall, pulpit area carpeting, among other examples. The issue of unbudgeted costs was raised. Notwithstanding Holly's generous offer of a personal donation, action will be considered in the upcoming budget process.

10. UUSC Statement of Conscience

The BOT unanimously approved a motion to invite individual members and friends of the Society to personally sign a copy of Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Statement of Conscience – the resulting document to be hung in the Fellowship Room.

Declaration of Conscience

At this extraordinary time in our nation's history, we are called to affirm our profound commitment to the fundamental principles of justice, equity and compassion, to truth and core values of American society.

In the face of looming threats to immigrants, Muslims, people of color, and the LGBTQ community and the rise of hate speech, harassment and hate crimes, we affirm our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

In opposition to any steps to undermine the right of every citizen to vote or to turn back advances in access to health care and reproductive rights, we affirm our commitment to justice and compassion in human relations.

And against actions to weaken or eliminate initiatives to address the threat of climate change – actions that would threaten not only our country but the entire planet – we affirm our unyielding commitment to protect the interdependent web of all existence.

We will oppose any and all unjust government actions to deport, register, discriminate, or despoil.

As people of conscience, we declare our commitment to translate our values into action as we stand on the side of love with the most vulnerable among us.

We welcome and invite all to join in this commitment for justice.

The time is now.

11. Upcoming Events

Fellowship Feast on March 18th.

Adjournment: 9:45

B. Josefsberg

2/21/17