

Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

Board of Trustees Meeting: 9/11/17

Convened at 7 PM

ATTENDEES:

Willis, Duran, Lewis, McMurray, Krag, Nolan, Nadler, Brennan, Josefsberg, Debelis, Rev. Sarah

1. Opening Words and Check In

Fragile and Rooted

See a blossom in your mind's eye.
Allow it to fill the interior of your
imagination.

Greater perfection of form in
nature cannot be imagined.
With inward gaze absorb each
wondrous fluted petal.

Slide down its humid surface
until you drop as the dew into
its velvety core.

Immerse your senses in this safe
chamber.

Such fragile beauty gives impulse
to weep.

Slowly reverse the journey;
as you ascend the shaft toward
wider light, turn your
imagination around and around
to see its many facets.
Stored within is the memory of
all flowers.

Marvel that this creation, while
utterly fragile-yet undaunted,
boldly bursts forth turning
resolutely toward the sun.

We, too, shimmer with expectation, exuding our own illumination, color, pulse, and scent.

Vulnerable, still we venture our lives courageously toward hope and light, at once fragile and rooted.

Carolyn S. Owen-Towle

2. Minister's Report; DRE Report

Rev. Sarah was pleased with her first "Ingathering" Sunday service. Rob and others concurred. Rev. Sarah noted that there are "some kinks to work out."

Rev. Sarah held a Monday morning staff meeting and will continue to do so as a matter of weekly routine. She intends to provide the BOT with weekly attendance data that will be refined over time.

Peter was pleased with the layout of Rev. Sarah's written report. In response to her interest in reconfiguring her office space, he referred her to the relevant budget line. Rob suggested that Sarah develop a specific cost proposal.

Sean shared his daughter's delight when Rev. Sarah and Dylan visited her in RE.

Dylan will be supervising the new RE at the CUC as well as the Sr. Youth Advisor (James) at both CUC and USR. He indicated an intent to reinvigorate the senior youth program.

Sarah mentioned Dylan's upcoming ministerial ordination (Dec. 3rd, 5 PM, at NYC's Fourth CU.) The BOT voted unanimously to sponsor Dylan's post-ordination Fellowship requirements by authorizing the necessary committee (to include BOT volunteers.)

In addition to mentioning other upcoming events, Rob reminded all of the BOT's 10/21 retreat.

3. Personnel

The BOT continued the previous month's discussion about compensation guidelines. No action was taken.

4. Leadership Position Update

Rob reported that Anita De Giulio has agreed to co-chair the annual budget drive. He hinted that his vocational expertise in facilities might be applied to avocational purposes upon his retirement from the BOT. Several leadership opportunities continue to be available.

5. Corporate Resolution

The BOT unanimously approved a motion proposed by Peter concerning a corporate filing required for our Fidelity account.

6. Film Festival Update

Rob enthusiastically confirmed that the "North Jersey Human Rights [Film] Festival, Sponsored by the USR" will be held on the last weekend in April. Marshall Katzman will coordinate.

7. 2017-18 Goals/Strategic Planning

During a far-ranging discussion, the BOT grappled with preferred approaches to goal setting and strategic planning. All agreed that we want to "move away from (well-intentioned) block and tackling from getting into the weeds." Instead, Rob and Sally recommended more attention to strategic planning, organizational structure and working relationships between lay and ministerial leaders.

Time was spent discussing the potential elements of these recommendations against desired outcomes.

Rev. Sarah synthesized the possibilities into the following categories: a) Organizational Structure; b) Capital Plan; and c) BOT Relationship to New Minister.

Sally advocated for "bottom up" congregational voice. Rev. Sarah spoke about pragmatic results. To be continued.

Adjournment at 9:15 PM

Submitted by Bernie Josefsberg