

Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis – (UUI)
Board of Trustee (BoT) Meeting Minutes
June 19th, 2023/7pm/Regular Meeting/Zoom

Prepared by Tammy Jackson, Incoming BoT Secretary

Our Slack Website: uu-indy.slack.com

Board Members Present:

Jamie Hinson- Rieger – Minister

Jennifer Gatz – President

Jerry Foster – Vice President

Reuben Benzel – Treasurer

Tammy Jackson – Secretary

Kristel Robinson – Outgoing Secretary

Mike Hertel – Trustee

Carla Koertge Cote – Outgoing Trustee

John Russell – Trustee

Kate Stephens – New Trustee

Sergio Cianci Chapman – New Trustee

Sharon Chrust – New Trustee

Absent: Susan Putnam – Outgoing Trustee

Guests: Nancy Campbell, Holly Hendrickson, Judith Skyles, Jay Keith, Maria Pirillo Madar, Ray Wilson, Pam Risley, Piero Madar

Quorum Present: Yes

Meeting called to order by BoT President Jennifer Gatz at 7:00pm

Gratitude Cards

- *Thank you cards to be sent to Gary and Heliene Houdek for putting together the party for Rev. Jamie and Susanne Hinson-Rieger as well as Jim Killen for landscaping the sign area (John Russell will write these and send them out).*

Member Input

- *Carla Koertge Cote expressed a desire for the board to keep the congregation in the loop regarding services and what's coming up with RE. Susanne Hinson-Rieger will send an eblast regarding RE and Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger will inform regarding services. Carla also advised that Beth Henkel was requesting help from the board for the memorial service for Dan Henkel – several members offered to help with food, etc.*
- *Judith Skyles advised that in clearing out the RE room, mouse feces were found. She suggested new flooring be put down in the future. Rev. Jamie advised that the room was to be emptied by June 30th and suggested looping Mara Haium-White in. Carla talked to Ray Wilson about bringing exterminators into the building and Ray advised that there were several doors in need of repair, which was likely how the mice were getting in and that he had put mouse bait out.*
- *Landscaping Plan (Holly Hendrickson, Pam Risley and Jay Keith) – goal is to create a new entrance to the church, making it more inviting and identifiable. Jay created the design, which he shared with the board. Estimated cost is \$20-25,000. Holly suggested getting donations from*

congregants, using some of the Endowment money, or money from the Beacon fund. The board needs to decide if they want to invest the money in this project. Consensus was that the plans are beautiful but there are other items that take priority at this time.

- Pam Risley advised that the playground needs work and would like to discuss a proposal for this in the future.
- Carla Koertge Cote and Kristel Robinson acknowledged their time on the board and what it has meant to them. Everyone thanked them for their service.

New Business:

Staff Updates

Rev. Jamie advised that, during the time of transition, Mara Haium-White will report to the board and Linda Parr. Jennifer Gatz will be temporary supervisor for Mara and Linda and will email them to let them know. Kate Stephens suggested informing the congregation too. Erica Pahud and Tim Bryant will report to Mara and Jill Stewart will work with Mara. Staff will work primarily remotely for now. Rev. Jamie requested the board encourage the congregation in trusting and supporting the staff.

RE Office Building Needs

Carla Koertge Cote advised that the office needs painted and carpeted. There is currently no furniture in the office. Carla will talk to Sarah Cannon, new DRE, to determine her needs.

Adult RE Council

Carla Koertge Cote expressed the need to get this council started again and suggested possible people who were interested. This topic will be added to the July BoT meeting agenda.

Facility Needs

The buildings category has a \$25,000 budget. Ray Wilson stated that the cottage refurbish would run around \$2000, exterior painting - \$2800, new doors on RE building - \$5820. These costs could be taken out of the \$25,000. The RE building has painting needs estimated at \$11,000 as well as plumbing costs of \$2000. These costs would not come out of the \$25,000 budget. Need to replace HV/AC to meet our goal to become carbon neutral. Also, current system is 25 years old and runs the risk of breaking down, which would cost more to fix it. Piero advised that we have already had issues with it leaking. Costs for that range between \$24-34,000. The electric panel needs replaced - \$2000. All in all, he stated that \$27,000 would give us what we need. Some money could come from grants. The other possibility would be to do some of the work ourselves. Rev. Jamie suggested that half of the money could come from the Endowment and the board could approve the remainder, using money from our reserves. The board asked the Finance Committee to investigate this and have some figures to propose next month.

Board Vote

Motion to approve the budget for painting at \$11,000 – passed unanimously

Financial Update

Rueben Benzel stated that the final number for the pledge drive was \$293,000. He also advised that the interim minister was going to need a family health insurance plan but that the new RE Director would **not** need a health insurance plan. At our congregational meeting, the congregants approved a 5% cost of living increase for staff. The financial budget will be gone over in detail at our new board member

orientation. General building maintenance budget is \$21,800. Mike Hertel suggested taking the cost for the electrical panel out of these funds.

Board Meeting Administration

- It was decided that board meetings would continue to be held on the **3rd Monday of the month, at 7:00pm**
- Mike Hertel and Jennifer Gatz will lead the new board member orientation later this summer.

Ministers Report

Rev. Jamie thanked the board for being an extraordinary group of people. He is happy to answer questions or have conversations re the MFC letter. He encouraged the board to support new leaders and love your Pagans, to continue to invest in technology and a big thank you to Piero Madar in this department. He expressed his excitement for Rev. Dawn and hoped everyone would support her.

Program Team

Carla Koertge Cote advised that, in the past, the Program team was headed by the VP of the board and that person would meet with all the chairs of the committees and would then report back to the board. This provided a good way to check in with the program activities. Carla suggested getting this process going again and Jerry Foster stated that there were plans to bring it back.

Board Vote

Motion to approve the board meeting minutes from April and May – passed unanimously

Meeting Adjourned