

First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist
Auburn, ME
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2023
Community Meeting Room

Present: Anne Perron (President), David Das (Clerk), Ed Bell (member-at-large), Claire Hebert (member-at-large); Linda Greathouse (Vice-President); Betty Riggin (member-at-large) via Zoom

Guests: Angela Foss, Levesque

6:35: Anne Perron called the meeting to order.



Board Chalice

Ed read the Mission Statement and the Vision Statement.

Claire read the Board Covenant (from the Board Policy Manual).

Anne lit the chalice; she called on all of us to work together to create and strengthen community.

Brief sharing by Board members.

Consent Agenda:

- April 5, 2023 Minutes
- April 12, 2023 Minutes

Motion to approve: Anne

Second: Claire

Unanimous approval.

Open Session:

- Angela provided an update on the work of the Robert's Rules Task Force (Jane Corkum, John Spruill, Angela). They are halfway through their review process; will make recommendations to the congregation. There will be a need to update the Bylaws; looking to provide guidelines for voting meetings and congregational meetings; to streamline the congregational meeting by providing formal opportunities for discussion and debate prior to the meeting.

Interim Minister Search Committee Update:

- Linda reported that the committee is ready to submit the application to the UUA. Met with the Finance Committee; feel that we are in a position to offer a competitive salary and benefits package with flexibility for negotiation.
- UUA will offer feedback; then the matching process will begin.

Security Cameras:

- Greg Bianconi, Anne, and Levesque have investigated the possibility of installing two cameras: one on the apt/office building pointing at the main entryway; one on the apt/office building directed at the front side of the church.
 - Cameras would connect to the cloud.
 - Cameras would connect to individual phones.
 - Need to establish who would have access to the feed (see policy discussion below).
 - Perhaps a free-standing receiver in the church.
 - Perhaps an interior camera pointing at the administrative office door.
 - Should we post signs alerting the public to the presence of surveillance cameras?
- Why install security cameras?
 - Church administrator (and others working in the church) will know who is at the door. (Admin and Minister's offices to be moved into church building).
 - Additional layer of security for our building: vandalism and theft. (especially in the increasingly tense social and political environment).
 - Useful in addressing potential liability issues.

- The safety of our PSDI guests (given their vulnerability and past attacks on the unhoused in Auburn and Lewiston).
- Concerns?
 - Awareness that the issue has come up previously. Past concern that they could compromise the privacy of, and create a possible danger for, church goers. Those fears are no longer relevant.
 - Cameras currently at neighboring locations – Dairy Joy, Mechanics Savings – already pick up activity on church grounds. Cameras are ubiquitous.
- Next Steps:
 - Anne and Greg will look for further estimates. Current estimate of \$2500 installed. There are donors for the project (will not come out of church budget).
- Motion to approve the installation of security cameras made by Claire; second by Linda. Unanimously approved.
- Policy Implications:
 - Angela reminded the Board that the decision has policy implications. Board will need to create a safety policy that incorporates parameters (yes!) around camera use. Particular issue: who has access to the feed while outside the building.

Rose Window Award:

- General discussion of the process; the criteria.
- Award made at Annual Meeting (June 4).
- Established May 1 deadline for nominations by the congregation (Claire to work with Toby on the email to the congregation).
- Decision to be made at May 3 Board meeting.

Review of Board To-Do List:

- Membership committee is working on the updated 2023 member list.
- Focus on getting the Newsletter up and running.
- Work on a Congregational Covenant.
- Need to create policy addressing committees: how created; how appointments are made; committee size; reporting responsibilities. How to distinguish from taskforce, group, ministry.

- Safety policy.

Staff Task Force:

- In the absence of a minister, Board is responsible for staff oversight.
- Created a staff task force: Anne Perron, Claire Hebert, Cindy Greathouse.

8:20: Board entered Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

8:35: Board came out of Executive Session.

8:36: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Das (Clerk)