

First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist
Auburn, ME
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2023
Community Meeting Room

Present: Anne Perron (President), Linda Greathouse (Vice-President), David Das (Clerk), Claire Hebert (member-at-large), Jane Pentheny (member-at-large), John Spruill (member-at-large)

Guests: Angela Foss, Esther Tucker, Levesque

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



Board Chalice

Anne read the Mission Statement.

Linda read a section from the “Covenant for Auburn UU Board of Directors” 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.

Minister’s Report: Patrick is attending a weeklong transitional/interim minister training in Alabama. Could not attend virtually as sessions run to 8 pm.

President’s Report:

- Drug use in car in church parking lot on Sunday morning.
- Purchased a couch for the minister’s office (used funds from the sale of the former Outright furniture).
- Refinished one of the outside benches; will be placed in lobby.

- Anne and Greg Bianconi have created a Key Code book; to track codes and keys. System depends upon not sharing codes with unauthorized users.
- Rental FYI: her chorus pays \$57 for 2 hours of rehearsal time at a Portland church; in addition, they commit to sing at 2 services.
- Fundraising ideas:
 - Has a booth at Mechanic Falls flea market; looking to sell baskets and other items to benefit the church.
 - Spoke with Tom Wylie: Tom willing to emcee a *Beer and Bingo Night* at church.

Board Member Communications:

- John has done significant research into printers. Recommends a “ink tank” model (the latest and most efficient). Will speak with Pam, Claudia, and Patrick.
- David: still waiting for information about District meeting in Augusta on October 14.

Consent Agenda:

- September 20, 2023 Minutes

Motion to approve: John

Second: Linda

Unanimous approval.

Open Session:

- Levesque:
 - Wi-Fi connection to 159 Pleasant St. improved. Used their personal wi-fi box. (John will investigate a permanent replacement for the 159 Pleasant box)
 - Need to contact Auburn Fire Department to have set of new keys put into lock box by kitchen door.
 - Should the sandwich board on Spring St. have some church information along with DIC information?
 - Wednesday morning: noticed that drug dealer (see September 6 Minutes) who lives at 160 Pleasant St. was at the DIC.

Security Camera Policy:

- Motion to adopt: John
Second: Jane

Unanimous approval.

Town Hall Review:

- Went well overall; however, some attendees not happy, did not feel welcome.
- Established foundation for October 15 congregational meeting.
- Looking at next Town Hall:
 - What gets you excited? Engages you?
 - What activities are you interested in?
 - What could bring you back to church?
 - Make it a physical exercise: people move around the sanctuary to register interests.
 - Background to the Town Hall topic:
 - Reverend Patrick's comment: We need to figure out **where** we are going.
 - Sense that we are spinning our wheels.
 - Loss of energy.
 - Where is the joy?
 - Finances are down; membership is down.
 - The importance of relationship building.
 - Scheduled for November 12.
 - The importance of Patrick's presence at the Town Hall.

Comment:

- Angela:
 - Make room for open ended comment at the November 12 Town Hall; give people opportunity to come up with their own ideas.
 - Public meetings are stressful; the lingering memory of last fall's meetings. Anxiety; fear that conflict could erupt; emotion still there. The microphone as stress inducing.
- Esther:
 - Perhaps link to a craft/hobby night where people demonstrate/teach a craft.

Board Retreat:

- We will schedule a Board Retreat (with Patrick) to discuss the above issues (and other issues). Sometime between 11/3-11/5.

8:00: David made motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a budget issue; second by Jane. Unanimous approval.

9:15: Out of Executive Session

9:16: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Das (Clerk)