

First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist  
Auburn, ME  
Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
September 20, 2023  
Community Meeting Room

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

Guests: Angela Foss, Levesque, Esther Tucker, Holly Cooney

6:46: Anne Perron called the COVID-impacted hybrid meeting to order.



No chalice lighting or opening words in the interests of time.

Brief sharing by Board members.

***Board Chalice***

### **Minister's Report:**

- Patrick asked what the Board would want in his report.
- Early days are going well; everyone is very welcoming.

### **President's Report**

- Door Codes and Keys
  - Old codes wiped, new codes issued
  - New codes and recipients documented
  - New codes emailed to recipients

- 12 keys – keys also to be tracked
- Anne at church early this morning
  - To ensure that Gerry Fox and the DIC had access to the building with the new codes.
  - Concern about drug dealing and vandalism previously caught on camera (not related to the DIC).
    - Concerned about presence of a particularly aggressive and threatening drug dealer (not a DIC guest).
    - Shared information and photo with the police.
  - Patty Weidler very helpful in addressing DIC guest drug use on church grounds.
- Greg Whitney's email
  - Greg had emailed the Board to express the DIC Board's concerns about the August 16 minutes. The DIC Board wished to clarify that:
    - The critical email referenced in the minutes was from an individual and did not reflect the opinions of the DIC Board.
    - The various particular acts of vandalism described in the minutes should not be attributed to the DIC or its guests.
  - Anne expressed her confusion regarding Greg's email comment; she thought it quite clear that the Board did not claim that the email expressed the opinions of the DIC Board.
  - David stated that the minutes do not ascribe to the DIC any responsibility for the acts of vandalism. However, from now on, when discussing unattributed acts of vandalism or other illegal behaviors, the minutes will clearly state that the DIC was not responsible.
  - Board moved to append Greg Whitney's email to the minutes of tonight's meeting. Motion: Jane; Second: John; Unanimous approval.

### **Board Member Communications:**

- John brought up the issue of the printer:
  - The current lease costs \$1200 (expiring in October).
  - We could purchase a printer for \$200-400; John will investigate the possibilities.
  - Discussion revolved around what capacity we require.
  - Patrick advocated for frugality in printing; no need for Orders of Service, for example.
- Claire asked about Patrick's first impressions of life at 159 Pleasant St.

- Patrick reported that all was positive (apart from unstable internet).

### **Consent Agenda:**

- September 6, 2023 Minutes

Motion to approve: John

Second: Linda

Unanimous approval.

### **Open Session:**

- Angela: two comments regarding the printer conversation:
  - Need to canvass various church constituencies about their particular printer needs.
  - Need to establish a process for how we pay for large print jobs done out-of-house (at Staples etc.)

### **Appointment of Holly Cooney to the Committee on Ministry**

- Motion by Jane, second by John; unanimous approval.
  - General consensus that this is a killer committee.

### **Security Camera Use Policy:**

- Continue to tweak the policy
  - Who monitors the cameras?
    - Different monitors for exterior and interior cameras?
    - Who decides to share the data with police or emergency personnel?
  - Reiterated the stipulation that audio capability will be deactivated for the inside cameras.
- Unanimous agreement to vote via email once the policy is finalized.
- John raised the issue of the Sunday Service broadcast: should we create a general camera use policy and not focus simply on the security camera protocol?
  - Board thought that this requires a much broader discussion that ties into Community Relations; Face Book and website policy; policy regarding publication of photos.
  - Should/Could be a future agenda item.

### **October 1 Town Hall:**

- Finance Committee met on Monday
  - Ellen O'Brien will provide a summary of our budget high- and lowlights at the Town Hall.
  - Greg Bianconi will be present at the Town Hall; perhaps other members of Finance will attend.
- Need to negotiate a rental agreement with the DIC
  - Take into consideration utilities and space costs
  - Task force of Linda, Anne, Claire, and (perhaps) Greg Bianconi to determine those costs.

### **Capital Campaign:**

- John reported that the Finance Committee had discussed the possibility of a Capital Campaign.
  - John volunteered to chair the campaign;
    - looking for a committee.
    - looking for policy on how the Board creates a committee.
  - Board members and guests in attendance thought that a capital campaign at this point was not a capital idea.
  - Policy around committee creation to be a future agenda item.

### **8:25: Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Das (Clerk)

Greg Whitney Email

Original message -----

From: Greg Whitney <[gwhit52@gmail.com](mailto:gwhit52@gmail.com)>

Date: 9/14/23 8:41 AM (GMT-05:00)

To: Anne Perron <[amgp72@yahoo.com](mailto:amgp72@yahoo.com)>

Subject: 8/16 Board minutes

Hi Anne

The Drop-in Center Board recently discussed the church Board minutes of the 8/16 meeting and we have some concerns.

Regarding the email issue, while the email was from a member of the DIC leadership, it was definitely NOT written on behalf of the DIC. I have seen the email and talked with the author and it is abundantly clear that it was her personal views and in no way a reflection on the views of the Drop-in Center leadership. I think this should be clarified in the church Board minutes.

Regarding the security issues, I am concerned and disappointed that the Drop-in Center continues to be falsely blamed for issues that arise. Specifically the cigarette butts found in the church (this is the first I have heard of this, when and where were they found?), the vandalism of Phil's space, and the powder on the lobby floor. As has been discussed, a DIC volunteer did a walk through before closing on Saturday and found nothing amiss in the sanctuary. The vandalism was discovered on the following Sunday morning. There is nothing to indicate that this was the fault of the DIC. Likewise, the 'powder' on the floor was done sometime between Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. Several people (some affiliated with the DIC and some not) have indicated that the lobby floor was fine on Thursday. I personally vacuumed up the stuff on the floor and it was not powder at all. It was somewhat sticky. A few days later I saw some very similar footprints in the Outright room. As you know, the floor in the Outright room was being refinished. I am 99% convinced that the stuff on the lobby floor was dust residue as a result of sanding the floor. It was sticky and the footprints in the lobby matched those in the Outright room. Again, I think the Board minutes should be amended so that it does not sound like these issues were caused by the Drop-in Center.

I would express these concerns at the next Board meeting, but I have another commitment every Wednesday afternoon/evening.

Thank you for listening.

Greg