

First Unitarian Society of Ithaca

Board of Trustees Meeting

October 15, 2019 Minutes

President Andy Turner called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) to order at 6:14 pm on Wednesday, October 15, 2019 (one week later than originally planned).

Trustees Present:

Angela Zhang, Matt Hare (Clerk & Scribe), Andy Turner (President), Elton Hall, Kim Wilkinson, Diana Nier, Lyn Staack

Trustees Absent:

Wendy Salomon (Vice President), Jennifer Streid-Mullen (ex-officio; Treasurer)
A quorum was present, being a majority of the full Board (currently eight members).

FUSIT Members & Guests:

Rev. Margaret Weis

Handouts:

Agenda, Minister's Report, draft BoT minutes from July and September, BoT Standard Operating Procedures (all electronically distributed)

Agenda Item # 1: Opening Reading and Minutes Approval

Rev. Weis lit the chalice and Angela Zhang read a selection. Round robin checking in.

MOTION: Approve the BoT July 16, 2019 and September 10, 2019 meeting minutes shown in Google Docs folder as of the date and time of this meeting. **PASSED.**

Agenda Item # 2: Upcoming Dates.

(Newsletter deadline this Thursday, Oct. 17)

Planning for Auction (Rev. Wies) - Some changes to silent auction - will request donation of specific items to make baskets with. Still looking for volunteers to help during the auction.

Date	Event	Comments
October 2, 9, 16, 23; Five Wishes: Planning Ahead for End of Life, Rev. Weis		
10/12	Open Mic Night	6:30 - 8:30 in FUSIT Parlor and Sanctuary
10/19	Lay Pastoral Care Training	UU Church of Binghamton

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Date	Event	Comments
10/26	Halloween Crafts	5:30-7:30 pm in Parlor
10/27	Ministry Team Fair	Frederick Gray room (Annex) after Sunday service
11/07	Power to Heal discussion	7 pm in Parlor
11/09	Annual Service Auction	At Fusit, 5:30 - 7 pm hors d'oeuvres with music, 7 pm auction with child care 5:30-9:00 (movie night!)

Agenda Item # 3: Unsung Heroes for September 2018

OWL crew: Susanne Quagliata, Arthur Woll, Powers, Edna Brown, Audrey Hopkins	Successful launching of OWL
Aesthetics team	Continued beauty in the sanctuary

Agenda Item # 4: Overarching discussion to prepare for November finance.

Bylaws indicate that a board member should be on the Endowment Committee. Jennifer Streid-Mullen is on Endowment, but is no longer on the board. The Endowment Comm. generally meets with finance committee; we should get a board member on that committee.

Do we need board liaison to Stewardship Comm?

General discussion about the relationship between strategic planning and regular finance-related committee work.

Perhaps we need all finance-related committees to meet for a 'summit'; Invite chairs from Endowment, Finance, Stewardship, and Strategic Planning. From the summit we can draft a description of our financial systems and how the puzzle pieces work together as a whole. Endowment committee has a legacy of being perceived as separate, inaccessible and secret. How do we break this legacy and rebrand? Move toward education of congregation and rebranding with simple visuals. SP should be given the time to carry out its charge and connect

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vision with resources. So the Summit goal is communication and education, not proximate financial details.

Agenda Item # 5: Board Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

Many SOP items relate to communications, and this deserves review. An improvement would be to clarify who will do what from these SOP, and update the BoT calendar based on it.

MOTION to approve existing SOP (FUSIT Standard Op Procedures - FY19-20-V1.0.GDocs) by Diana and second from Andy. **PASSED.**

Agenda Item # 6: Update and Next Steps for Safety Committee

Angela is writing report, will get approval from Safety Comm and then will bring to the Board

Agenda Item # 7: Minister Report

Reverend Margaret updated the board on staff performance. Asking Jessica to start planning mid-year gathering for board and staff.

Agenda Item # 8: Scribe for Board minutes

Matt volunteered to continue scribing.

Agenda Item # 9: Board Minute plans

Wait for finance-related board minute in Dec.?

New board members invited to give one before then. Diana volunteered for Oct. 27th.

Board minute doesn't have to be a board member - could be someone from a Board Committee

Agenda Item # 10: Strategic Planning update

One meeting so far. All members got SP book for preparation. Next meeting Oct. 22.

Agenda Item # 12: DRE search process.

Rev. Wies will attend minister retreat next week and share notes on DRE search processes

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Minutes taken by Matt Hare, October 15, 2019