

**HumanistsMN Board Meeting**  
**Sept. 14, 2023**  
**6-745PM**

**Present:** Ellie Haylund (president), Jerry Smith, Stephanie Schwinn (secretary), Audrey Kingstrom, Suzanne Perry, Mitch Thompson (vice president), Abigail Jackson, John Walker (treasurer), Seth Engman,

**Absent:** Nick Haylund

**Location:** zoom meeting

Call to order (Ellie Haylund-President)

New business

Audrey advocated for an addition of statement of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) to our mission and values. She suggested hiring a consultant to assist with writing and implementing into practice. Most members were in agreement with adding a DEI statement to our values and mission. Discussion about hiring a consultant was tabled due to missing members and lack of information. Jerry would like to know how hiring a consultant would be beneficial. Ellie suggested members bring their own workplace experience of DEI to the group to aid in further discussion. Suzanne noted that FUS had a DEI statement and wondered if AHA would have resources to assist. Audrey offered to do more research and bring it to the next meeting. The board thanks Audrey for her work on this.

Treasurer's report (John Walker): A missing check was discovered to have created a substantial accounting error which has been corrected but there remains a small discrepancy. Some discussion about creating line items for "pass through" donations such as the Ukraine refugee project, and Camp Quest. Sara Levin needs 1099 for her work with HMN, Mitch and John will follow up.

Review of FUS contracts (Ellie and Mitch): Not much change. Discussion about HMN covering rent for SMART Recovery at the cost of \$2500 for this year. Jerry suggested paying one year and then re-evaluating to see if there's enough participation to justify continuing. Mitch motioned to approve \$2500 for this year and reassess at the end of the year. Jerry Seconded. Motion passed.

Ellie volunteered a relative to fix our podium.

HMN will have a table at the annual ACLU breakfast. We will also be featured in the program and slide show for our sponsorship. There are 10 spots available so far Ellie, Mitch and Suzanne have confirmed attendance. Reservation is due by 9/29.

## Committees Reports

Finance (Jerry): reviewed draft of the budget. It was suggested that we increase honorariums to \$5000, develop a system to better track donations such as pass through (Camp Quest e.g.), designated (e.g., scholarships), non-designated, and budgets for certain committees (Humanists in Action e.g.). Jerry, Mitch and John will review the budget and propose some ideas.

Marketing (Ellie): Discussion about developing a social media-policy and how to post more on Threads, providing Dave Guell with \$500 for Facebook marketing. Stephanie motioned that HMN provide Dave with \$500 for the purpose of marketing HMN on Facebook. Suzanne seconded. Motion passed.

Membership (Audrey): Our current membership is around 400. Plan to focus on retaining and engaging current members. Create a hospitality team to greet and provide refreshments at events. We will feature volunteers in our newsletter. Explore options for new membership managements system to determine if a different one would be more effective given our recent growth.

Humanists in Action (Stephanie): There are 2 more shifts for our Open Arms garden before winter sets in. Upcoming highway clean up.

Media and tech (Mitch): Reviewed our use of Slack. It was determined that there wasn't much need to use it over the Summer so we'd like to continue using it during the more active seasons.

Programming (Audrey): We have speakers through February. Vegfest is coming up this weekend. Use the video that Cindy Erickson made during our Community Gatherings. Discussion about where will have this years annual Winter Solstice celebration on Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. In the past it has been held at the Humanities Center which may be a good option for this year.

Secular advocacy and Scholarships (Suzanne): Consider Ron Millar for Day of Reason. We have 3 scholarships to offer this year. Our candidate pool was smaller but 3 candidates have been selected. We may suggest revising the application in order to get more candidates in the future.