

HumanistsMN Board Meeting  
October 11 2023  
630-8PM

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

Absent: Suzanne Perry

Call to order (Ellie)

1. Approval of secretary's notes from the September meeting.

Motion: Mitch

Second: Ellie

Motion carried

2. Treasurer's report (John Walker): Relatively unchanged from September.

3. DEI statement (Audrey Kingstrom)

The following statement was recommended by Audrey and reviewed by the board:

“HumanistsMN resolves to explore how we can build the core values of diversity, equity, and inclusion into all our operations, as well as model those values as we advance our mission.

We believe that by intentionally centering these core humanist values within our organization, we will better reflect our mission of promoting widespread human flourishing and more effectively meet our objective of building and strengthening our local humanist community.

We resolve to seek out the necessary resources to explore how all leaders within HumanistsMN (board and committee members) can best advance this work through our messaging, decision-making, programming, interpersonal relationships, community building, and volunteer engagement.”

Abigail was able to briefly consult with a colleague about suggestions for DEI statements and implementation.

There was some discussion about hiring a consultant but that was tabled for now in favor of forming an advisory committee to further study the issue.

Motion: Audrey

Seconded: Stephanie

Motion carried.

ACTION: Audrey will look to form an advisory committee

4. Ongoing discussion about the condition and repair of the podium.

5. Presidents report (Ellie): Ellie and Suzanne met with Kevin from the Secular Student Alliance (SSA) and Alex Boltz to discuss restarting the SSA on the U of M campus. The national SSA can assist Alex in this endeavor. There was some discussion about how HumanistsMN can support them perhaps by inviting them to our events and HumanistsMN attending their events.

6. Finance Committee (Jerry Smith): The finance committee will be meeting to determine ways to delineate donations such as direct pass through, pass through or unrestricted. Finance committee will look at providing quarterly reports for members.

ACTION: John will send out an email to coordinate a meeting time for the finance committee

ACTION: Jerry will send financial information to Suzanne for publication

There was discussion about adding a line item to provide childcare for events which could also include an additional room to rent . Audrey reported that individuals who have already been vetted through Camp Quest could be a good resource.

Motion: Stephanie

Second: Mitch

Motion carried.

7. Marketing update (Ellie): The marketing team meeting got postponed with a reschedule date yet to be determined

8. Membership (Audrey): There will not be a membership drive this year. The focus will be on retention and engagement of current members. She has been developing a hospitality team to serve in a variety of capacities including greeting, providing snacks and beverages, outreach to members etc.

9. Humanists in Action (Stephanie): There was picnic to welcome the refugees from Ukraine that HumanistsMN and Alight helped get to the US. There were about 25 people in attendance. Wolf Management donated \$9500 toward a car for the family.

10. Communications: Our Slack channel didn't get much use during the Summer probably because there was less to discuss during that time. We will continue using it in the coming months to see if it is a useful communication tool during the busier months. We will continue using the free version although it doesn't allow for saving messages. The subscription version which allows for saving messages is quite expensive. We will continue to livestream our events despite decreased viewership. More people will be getting trained to on this.

11. Programming (Audrey): As stated previously she has been developing a hospitality team to act as greeters and feeders at events. The Winter Solstice celebration is scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup> at the Humanities Center. Activities include a variety show, secular/solstice songs and music.

Meeting adjourned.

