

HumanistsMN Board Meeting
11/8/2023
Location: online
6-745 PM

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

Call to order: Ellie Haylund

Mitch Thompson moved to accept the secretary's report from the October meeting.

Suzanne Perry seconded

All voted in favor. Motion carried.

1. New business

- a. Suzanne updated the board on our secular student scholarships. We awarded 3 scholarships last year. HMN members Craig Luedeman and Mary Robischon said they would again donate \$2,500 to scholarships next year. Another member has also inquired about donating. There was discussion about offering 2 scholarships of a higher amounts rather than 3 smaller ones in light of the high cost of education and a smaller candiate pool It was decided that HumanistsMN would offer 2 scholarships of \$2,500 each.
- b. This month we are offering a new member orientation 30 minutes prior to our community gathering. There will be a presentation highlighting the many offerings of activities and volunteer opportunities that HumanistsMN offers. Board members are encouraged to attend.

2. Treasurer's report (John)

- a. We received a check, in the amount of \$9500 from a single source, to be used toward the \$14,000 reimbursement to Christine Retkwa for the vehicle that she assisted in purchasing for the Ukrainian family that HumanistsMN helped to immigrate to the US.
- b. We sold just under \$800 in books from the October speaker, or about 37 books at \$20. Income consisted of around half credit card transactions and half cash. Dave Guell managed donations and cash from the book sale. The cash is still in Dave's possession and will be deposited by John

Walker when Dave and John meet next. Dave will be asked to manage the book sales at the November community gathering.

3. Strategic planning (Jerry)

- a. The board discussed future priorities such as building a statewide organization, generating more investment opportunities such as partnerships with Open Arms, offering scholarships etc., hiring part time paid staff, recruiting more volunteers to serve in the
- b. organization, increased visibility, and promotion such as with yard signs or education opportunities such as sponsoring academic teams or robotics teams.
 - i. ACTION: HumanistsMN board will need to form a sub-committee to develop a plan to potentially hire a part time staff containing a job description, qualifications, deliverables, funding such a position etc to share with members at our annual meeting.
 - ii. ACTION: (Jerry) create a list of duties that key people do as way to develop the job description.

4. Photo policy (Mitch)

- a. The board agreed that we would have signage at big events notifying attendees that there may be photos and video being taken. Ellie agreed to volunteer to draft a notice to MeetUp organizers about this.
 - i. ACTION: Ellie will draft a notice of the photo policy for events.

5. President's reports (Ellie)

- a. Solstice tickets are on sale. Kudos to Suzanne who edits our newsletter (Ellie's mother thoroughly enjoyed reading it).
- b. Mitch moved to donate tickets to donate tickets for 5 secular students to attend the Solstice Celebration. Audrey seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

6. Finance team report (Jerry)

- a. Discussion about handling pass through, unrestricted donations. There will be a meeting with Huntington Bank to change signatories on accounts.

7. Marketing (Suzanne)

- a. Suzanne, Dave and Ellie will develop a social media policy.

- i. ACTION: The committee will explore getting yard signs and other merch focused on the messaging of combating Christian Nationalism.
 - ii. ACTION: Ellie will discuss how to sell merch online with American Humanist Association.
- 8. Membership (Audrey)
 - a. Kudos to Cindy Erickson for developing our new member orientation.
- 9. Media and tech (Mitch)
 - a. Discussion about how to get more control over our website and Google account.
 - i. ACTION: Suzanne will follow up with Andre about our website
- 10. Programming (Audrey)
 - a. Programming is set through March 2024. The board discussed some speakers for the remainder of 2024. Ellie has been in contact with Sasha Sagan (daughter of Carl Sagan) and Jerry has been in contact with Greg Epstein, author and Humanist Chaplain at Harvard.
 - b. John will livestream the community gathering for November.
- 11. Secular Advocacy (Suzanne)
 - a. Nothing at this time
- 12. Social Investments (Jerry)
 - a. Nothing new to report at this time
- 13. Solstice event (Audrey)
 - a. The entertainment will be a variety show. People are encouraged to participate.
 - b. Tickets are on sale which include food and beverage service.
 - c. Alcohol is not included in the cost of the meal.