

HumanistsMN Board Meeting Minutes

12/13/2023

Location: online

6-715 PM

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

1. Secretary's report (Stephanie Schwinn)
 - a. Motion to approve secretary's October meeting minutes with amendments-Mitch
 - b. Seconded (Jerry)
 - c. Motion Carried
2. Treasurer's report (John Walker)
 - a. Up by \$400
 - b. Christine misplaced original check for Ukraine travel funds so that check was cancelled and new one was issued
 - c. AG Ellison's check had to be cancelled and was reissued but he hasn't cashed it
 - d. John, Nick and Ellie went back to Huntington to get Nick removed and Ellie added to the account. John will get the debit card to Ellie.
 - e. John is working to get CD's opened but Harlan needs to be removed as president with the Secretary of State
 - f. Suzanne inquired about re-opening the Vanguard fund. Jerry suggested an endowment fund for future staff salary
3. New business
 - a. Preparation for upcoming Solstice party
 - i. SOLD OUT! A few more dinner tickets were added because there were some that were entertainment only. The secular student scholarship recipients will be in attendance
 - b. Humanists in Action Budget
 - i. The board will only need to approve expenses greater than \$1000.
 - ii. We may need to re-arrange some budget items to more sensical places

4. Old business

- a. Formation of sub committee to research feasibility of hiring part time staff. Jerry will be collecting the job duties of various volunteers to begin creating a job description for staff. The board will talk more about this at January's meeting. The board explored avenues to secure funding such as grants, GoFundMe or Jerry suggested creating an endowment to fund position for long term solvency.
 - b. Creating and selling of HMN merch with a focus on fighting Christian Nationalism (Ellie)
 - c. Update on website (Suzanne Perry/Ellie): Ellie spoke with Andre who said he would be available for talk more in a few days. He hasn't gotten back to Ellie yet. Ellie will have a more candid discussion about our needs. There is a volunteer who is interested in helping with the website
5. President's report (Ellie): IG post of Kurt Vonnegut post was popular so Ellie and Nick boosted it. We gained 100 new followers. Ellie continues to find ways to use social media to increase our presence in social media.
- #### 6. Committee reports
- a. Finance team (Jerry and John): budgeting for the upcoming year will start in February
 - b. Marketing team (Ellie and Suzanne): See president's report, Ellie is researching the possibility of getting yard signs to sell
 - c. Membership committee (Ellie): Ellie is researching a new membership management system
 - d. Humanists in Action (Stephanie): Several people participated in the Free Bikes for Kids giveaway. The group continues researching projects for the future.
 - e. Media and tech: See 4d
 - f. Programming (Suzanne/Audrey): March program is confirmed. Jan 20th speaker has local book publisher who will help promote. We will be selling books again at this event. The board discussed ways to maximize the impact for non-members such as holding a reception afterward with expanded food offerings, membership booth,

informational handouts about HMN. Suzanne suggested using the larger hall in the basement of FUS. The board may plan dinner gathering after the event. We will start publishing event.

i. ACTION: Ellie will create graphic for social media

g. Secular Advocacy (Suzanne): Suzanne referenced article in Star Tribune about medical aid in dying. The woman featured in the article tabled at HMN Day of Reason. Suzanne has volunteered to draft some points to be ready for LTE, communications with legislators press releases etc. American Atheists are preparing a fact sheet about Minnesota legislation that is being drafted to require judges to inform people about non-religious addiction treatment options. They suggested we form a coalition. Rep. Mike Freiberg will be introducing legislation.

h. Adjourned (Ellie)