

HumanistsMN Board Meeting
Weds. Feb 14th 2024
Location: Zoom
630-8:00 PM

1. Calls to order (Ellie Haylund, president)
2. Roll Call (Ellie)
3. Present: Ellie Haylund (president), Mitch Thompson (vice president), Stephanie Schwinn (secretary), John Walker (treasurer) Abigail Jackson, Audrey Kingstrom, Seth Engman, Suzanne Perry, Jerry Smith, Nick Haylund
4. Approve agenda (Ellie)
 - a. Mitch moved
 - b. Audrey seconded
 - c. Motion approved
5. Secretary's report approval (Stephanie)
 - a. Moved (Mitch)
 - b. Seconded (Audrey)
 - c. Motion approved
6. Treasurers Report (John)
 - a. Funds down due to Winter Solstice event. Overall, up \$6000. Still funds available for Ukraine refugee project.
 - b. Continuing to establish CD
 - c. MN Council on Nonprofits dues are due in March-
 - i. Moved (Mitch)
 - ii. Seconded (Ellie)
 - iii. Discussion: (Audrey) we joined because they are a good resource for nonprofits and provide a variety of programs to assist nonprofits on a variety of fronts
 - iv. Motion approved
 - d. We received confirmation of scholarship funds (Ellie)
7. New business
 - a. Open Arms donation of \$3000
 - i. Moved (Jerry)
 - ii. Seconded (Mitch)
 - iii. Discussion: (Jerry) donation of \$3000 for further improvement of a specific garden site we've supported previously. This includes signage recognizing our contribution. The season usually starts in April.
 - iv. Motion approved.
 - b. Nominations committee and board status update (Audrey) Review of members current terms. Members serve 2-year terms and are allowed to serve 8 consecutive years but then must leave the board, however, they can be re-elected in the future. Audrey will review the records to determine who is up for re-election.
 - i. A nominating committee will be formed in March and make recommendations for potential members to the board. Elections will be held at the annual member meeting in May.
 - c. January Community Gathering (Suzanne) Cost to rent downstairs hall \$300. Attendance of 130, 5 new members signed up, 35 new volunteers and \$340 in donations. We got publicity through Straight White Jesus podcast and YouTube channel with 1500 views.
 - d. ACTION: Ellie and Suzanne will keep stats on Community Gathering

8. Old business
 - a. God and Country screening (Stephanie)
 - i. Showing at The Riverview on Feb 25th, create a MeetUp event with dinner or drinks afterward.
9. President's report (Ellie) nothing new to report
10. Committee reports
 - a. Finance team (Jerry)
 - i. Preparing budget for May for presentation annual meeting. He and John are gathering data to prepare for the upcoming year. Committees will have an opportunity to share their needs and estimated budgets. Goal is to finalize it in April for approval in May.
 - ii. Staffing exploration
 1. Job description research (Jerry): hiring executive director versus hiring director of operations to "off load" some tasks that are currently performed by volunteers. Board members were interested in director of operations to meet organizational needs. Half time position with salary information to come later after more research is done.
 2. Fundraising for paid position (Mitch) set up a dedicated line item for paid position. These funds could be used elsewhere in the event staff are not hired. Kick off at annual member meeting in May. Sense of urgency to generate funds. Link marketing efforts to fundraising for director of operations.
 3. ACTION: HMN board will for a sub-committee to develop a plan to potentially hire PT staff (write job description, salary range, fundraising campaign, Give to the Max idea, HMN put up large portion of funds with remainder to be made up with fundraising).
 - b. Marketing team (Ellie) social media platform meeting to create policies and strategies for social media use/promotion.
 - c. Humanists in Action (Stephanie) start of legislative session. Juneteenth (Audrey/Ellie) there are different tiers for sponsorship which also provide table etc. ACTION: Ellie research past event.
 - d. DEI (Audrey) Ten people interested in being in work group.
 - e. Programming (Audrey) We will need to select some potential dates in July at the same location. (Suzanne) Develop policies and procedures of how to manage cash donations. Two board members will count cash donations and then those will be given to John or another designated executive board member will collect it to be deposited. A report of amount will be reported to board.
 - f. Scholarship recipient restarting Twin Cities Secular Student Association at U of M.
 - g. Secular advocacy: Supporting the following legislation; End of Life Options, The Recovery Act. The Recovery Act will have a hearing. Supporters: HMN, Atheists, Secular Govt Caucus, the MN ACLU will include this on their lobby day. Secular Invocation will be given by Althea Prpic who is a humanist celebrant on Feb 29th.
11. Meeting adjourned.