HumanistsMN Board Meeting

Weds. Oct 9th. 6-730pm

Location: zoom

Present: Ellie Haylund (president), John Walker (treasurer), Stephanie Schwinn (secretary), Audrey Kingstrom, Suzanne Perry, Jerry Smith, Abigail Jackson, Paul Rupp, Nick Haylund

Absent: Mitch Thompson, Sophie Phuong Le

Call to order : Ellie Haylund

A. Approval of agenda from September

   Moved: Audrey

   Seconded: Jerry

   Motion carried

B. Approval of September minutes

   Nick Haylund was not noted as being there. Stephanie will add him.

   Moved: Nick

   Second: Audrey

   Motion Carried

C. Treasures report (John)
   a. There is $40 discrepancy but the source is unknown however it may be a technical issue.
   b. Audrey offered some potential reasons for this such as undeposited donations
   c. The organization has a PayPal account but not many people have it. Suzanne suggested adding this feature to the website. Other options are Venmo (requires a phone number, which we now have) and Zelle. Venmo has a charity profile option.
   d. John will work on creating a spreadsheet to better track donations collected at events.

B. New business

    a. (Suzanne) American Atheist (AA) Convention the third weekend of April which corresponds to the date of our Community Gathering, table at the conventions. Suzanne reached out to August Berkshire of Minnesota Atheists who suggested we consider becoming an affiliate of AA. Advantages: access to resources, ability to table, be listed on the website, no cost. HMN and American Atheists have collaborated on the Recovery Options Act bill at the MN state legislature. We share similar values, goals etc. Questions: are other Humanists groups associated with AA? HMN being an affiliate effect our chapter status with AHA? There are non-humanist organizations affiliated with American Humanist Association (HMN is a chapter). We may be able to have some programming at their convention such as panel discussion (TBD). ACTION: Ellie will check with AHA if affiliating would affect our status with AHA. ACTION: Suzanne will contact AA to find out how we could be involved. Motion to consider this will be tabled until the next Atheists since we share common goals, values. Concerns: loss of humanist identity, duplication of people, offerings, financial considerations, differences in philosophies and worldview, HMN working on several projects that requires a lot of work and bandwidth (not have ability to do this as well).
    b. No decision will be made at this time and would likely necessitate a vote from the full membership.
    c. Would be willing to consider forming a coalition

C. President's reports (Ellie)
    a. Ellie is running for AHA board, only AHA members can vote (separate from HMN membership).

D. Finance team (Jerry)
    a. No report

E. Marketing (Suzanne and Ellie)
    a. Fundraising for PT staff: letter is approved, dedicated web page/fundraising portal is up, single page brochure to distribute at events etc. Announce the formal start of the fundraising in the newsletter that goes out this Friday.

F. Membership (Ellie)
    a. No report

G. Humanists in Action
    a. Brush clean up, food packing, blankets

H. DEI (Audrey)
    a. No report

I. Programming (Audrey)

    a. October Community Gathering: assistance from team members, reception upstairs of FUS for social hour, table for fundraiser and merch
    b. Religious Freedom Days, (01/17, 18/2025) (Suzanne): speakers Gender Justice, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Mike Freiberg, Lutheran pastor Angel Denker(author), others TBD. Dinner will be held at the Humanities Center on Friday night.

J. Scholarship (Paul)
    a. Recipients selected Claire and Anjanae.

K. Motion to adjourn
    a. Moved Jerry
    b. Seconded Paul
    c. Motion carried