

GBAUUF Board Meeting Minutes

January 10th, 2024 || 6:30 p.m.

Chair: Natalie Buhl
Vice Chair: Annette Dreier
Past Chair: Kimberly Brumm
Secretary: Nicole Bickham

Senior Treasurer: Ramona Makos
Co-Treasurer: Roz Barker
Member At Large: Carl Bennett
Member At Large: Ron Ropson

We promise to:

- Show up with our best selves, intent on listening with openness and willingness to the voices in the room and those that are not.
- Speak with an authentic voice, grounded in our lived experience, mindful of differing cultural interpretations and realities that are present.
- Honor our duty to do the work of the board and to place anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multicultural accountability at the center of that work.
- Recognize that each of us is fully human, with hurts and vulnerability, and the need to laugh and sing.

Adopted December 2019 by GBAUUF board of trustees

Items in italics were action items from last month:

- I. Chalice Lighting
 - A. Attendance: Nicole, Carl, Ramona, Annette, Natalie, Kim, Rev Jim, Ron, Roz
- II. Check-In
- III. Open forum and welcome to guests
 - A. Guest(s): Francesca, Michael
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - A. Minutes
 1. Motion made by Ron to accept the December minutes, Carl seconded
- V. Minister's Report; see [Ministers report.pdf](#)
 - A. Virtual attendance is up recently. We need to make sure we continue to deliver a good virtual experience.
 - B. 2 of our teens will attend a mini-con this Sunday with 60 other UU teens at 1st Unitarian in Milwaukee. Rev Jim taking them for an overnight trip.
- VI. Discussion Agenda
 - A. Stewardship Team - see [Budget vs Actual.pdf](#)
 1. Bank balances as of 12/31/2023 are:

Checking	\$21,248.73
Reserve Fund	\$20,874.85
Scrip Checking	\$ 1,853.35
CD	\$10,000.00

TOTAL \$53,976.93

2. See additional info in [Stewardship Meeting Notes](#)
3. We had some discussion about the committee's proposal to separate out bookkeeping from the Treasurer role & hiring a bookkeeper. Ramona estimates 8-12 hrs/month at most. Treasurer could be 2-yr or longer position. Bylaws would need to be changed, which requires membership vote at April/May meeting, for hiring after next budget. Someone would have to decide which tasks go to each role. Stewardship Committee would need to put together a job description. We could put a notice in the UU Connect with link to board meeting minutes, once approved. Could also plan an event in April where proposed Bylaw changes are previewed for members so they have sufficient info before voting.
 - a. We will revisit when Annette should write something for the UU Connect.
4. Laurie Ropson volunteered to coordinate the Fair Trade orders.

B. Membership Team - see [Attendance.pdf](#)

1. Year to Year Comparison:

Ave. Attendance	2022	2023
September	40.0	48.2
October	43.8	43.8
November	50.0	59.3
December	45.7	52.5
2. Mary encourages us to greet 2 newer families: Dorf (2 adults, 3 children) & Andrews (2 adults, 1 child). She also moved Karen Early & Michael Lahti to friend status.

C. Programming Team - see [Sunday Services Team Report](#)

1. Natalie is struggling to get in touch with one of the Feb speakers. May have to substitute another service.

D. Religious Enrichment Team - no report.

E. Social Justice Team - see [JOSHUA Report](#)

1. Laurie asked in report whether we'd like to have someone present on white Christian nationalism. *Ron did let Laurie know to pass along names of anyone from Joshua who could present to our fellowship, as a sermon, 5th Sunday presentation, or standalone event, on this or other topics.*

F. Building/Facilities Team - see [Facilities Report](#)

1. Multiple broken windows in recent months. Michael notified police.
Francesca will follow up with Police Dept.
 - a. Common for commercial buildings to have polycarbonate outer pane. Looks like glass, very durable. More expensive than glass. Wouldn't be able to have thermopanes. Won't make a lot of difference for energy loss. Ron has equipment needed for installation.
 - b. Should we consider covering them over instead?
 - c. There is a breaker box in the ATM box that would allow us to turn on lights in that area, which might be a deterrent to future vandalism.

Could have light sensor so they come on automatically at night. Ron will look at the lights and determine what is needed.

d. Ron will take measurements and get the estimate. We agreed for Board to vote on this via email as soon as the estimate comes in.

2. Training for "Pull for Police" straps for people who rotate through tech support & musicians. Kim & Michael will prepare a slide on this for the Town Hall meeting.
3. Natalie followed up with Jeff from Open Circle about inclement weather policy. She is now waiting on his response.

VII. Old Business

A. Signage next to Diane's quilts.

1. Natalie got quilt labels from Ron & Kim got art board. Kim will mount the labels.

B. Town Hall meeting

1. Francesca provided link to slides from last Town Hall Meeting: [here](#).
2. Natalie wrote up an announcement for the Connect about this.

C. Board member email issues. Francesca has monitored and investigated this. It has to do with Gmail's spam filtering. Francesca will look into ways to get around this. Board members with Gmail addresses should add the admin email address to our address book.

VIII. New Business

A. Roz: Easier/Centralized SignUp process for volunteers (lawn mowers, re helpers, openers, closers, greeters treats etc): so everyone can go to one place and see what openings are available.

1. Some groups (eg, RE) already have a system that works for them. Some sign-ups are invitation only. Some are shared by all 3 fellowships.
2. QR codes: No one used the one we made for RE. Could have one on the Sunday program? Might be more useful as we have more young people joining. Kim could help with this.
3. Roz will create a list of the volunteer tasks that could be included in a centralized system.

B. Francesca: New Member Breakfast. Plan was to have one after we have about 5 new members. Currently we have 8-9 adults and a child.

1. We agreed on Feb 18th at 9am. Most Board members can attend. Kim & Natalie will do the presentation.
2. Food: Traditionally the Board has brought. Francesca will send out sign up sheet.
3. Will be in basement. Best to mix Board members and new members. Name tags would ensure people mix.
4. Francesca will send out invitations.

C. Francesca: Monthly Board Message. Need sign-ups for rest of year. Done.

D. Future Zoom option for board meetings? We decided at beginning of fellowship year NOT to do it. If any of us can't be here, we can call in. Francesca will

remove link from calendar.

- E. Annette: Margaret Krings wants to know if she can sell raffle tickets Sunday for Fox Valley UU raffle in Feb. Annette will tell her she can announce it during service to sell afterward.
 - F. Annette: During pandemic, several people (openers & closers) met on Fri afternoons in a park, and later started meeting in the fellowship library. It's open to anyone. Now there's a policy of paying to use facility, but cost wouldn't make sense. We clarified that because it's UU people, there's no cost. But we may need a way to keep track of who is using the space when. Annette will write an article for the Connect.
- IX. Review Action Items - see above, highlighted in orange
 - X. Check Out
 - XI. Adjourned at 8:05pm