

Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

Board of Trustees Meeting: 6/4/18

Convened at 7:00 PM

ATTENDEES: WILLIS, DURAN, Krag, LEWIS, NADLER, JOSEFSBERG, NOLAN, MCMURRAY, REV. SARA, REV. DYLAN

1. Opening Words / Chalice Lighting

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean--
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down --
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
With your one wild and precious life?

Mary Oliver

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16CL6bKVbJQ>

2. Year End Wrap-up

In a lengthy discussion, the BOT responded to Rob's invitation to think back upon the year, draw lessons for improvement and consider goals for next year.

Salient points:

- Four members are leaving the BOT. The new BOT faces some "big" financial questions.
- Rev. Sarah's first year has been successful: trust has been established and we can "settle in and settle down" to meet our challenges.
- The initial roll-out of the "Bubble" organizational proposal was successful. Much more needs to be done to implement it.
- The BOT unanimously authorized Rob to recruit and lead a small Capital Projects Planning Team that will recommend next steps this fall for a fund raising effort beginning in September '19.
- The new BOT will meet on a t.b.d. summer date (7/7? 7/14? 8/18?) for a planning retreat.

3. Final Budget Recap / Treasurer's Report [See Attached]

4. Annual Meeting Agenda

Rob led the BOT in reviewing plans for the upcoming Annual Meeting.

5. Weekly Plate Collection

BOT members readily agreed that fiduciary responsibilities need to be observed in any distribution of "specially designated" weekly plate collections.

In the belief that it will prompt more weekly giving, a motion was unanimously approved to split weekly plate collections on a 50/50 monthly basis between “special recipients” and the USR. The results will be monitored as a one year pilot.

6. UU Black Lives Matter Pledge Approval

The BOT unanimously voted to support the SRC in its pledge of \$2540 on behalf of the UU Black Lives Matter initiative.

7. Minister’s Report [See Attached]

During discussion, it was noted that 18 congregants volunteered for the Caring Committee.

8. DFM Report [See Attached]

Rev. Sarah and Sally updated the BOT on the ongoing search for a Director of Religious Education

9. Program Council [See Attached]

10. Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting / BBQ – June 10

Adjournment: 9:20 PM