

Unitarian Society of Ridgewood  
Board of Trustees Meeting: 11/7/16

Convened at 7 PM

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ATTENDEES: Willis, Johnson, Duran, Nadler, McMurray, Krag, Nolan, Josefsberg, Smith, Brennan, Johanna Seale, Bob Shoemaker, Eileen Jarrett

AGENDA

October BOT meeting minutes approved via email.

1. Reading

Mark Belletini's "Election Promises" (Full text attached)

*"I say the polls are not just open on Tuesday. I say they are open every day."*

2. Check-In

3. Annual Budget Drive Update

Bob Shoemaker and Eileen Jarrett briefed the BOT on this year's "Honor our Past/Picture our Future" budget drive that will be launched in March and that, among other goals, will focus upon increasing our number of Fair Share donors.

A general discussion about Fair Share contributions followed.

4. Interim Minister's Report (See Attached)

Rev. Tony's report prompted a discussion about how best to welcome the large number of visitors to our services over the past three months.

5. DRE Report

Johanna shared the six specific "portfolios" assigned to each member of the RE committee:

- Youth
- Volunteers
- Curriculum,
- Family Events
- Special Services
- Social Justice

A brief discussion followed about the status of our Coming of Age program.

Johanna solicited the BOT's financial support for the Liberal Religious Educators Association. [<http://www.lreda.org>] The BOT responded positively, with the exact form of support T.B.D.

#### 6. Treasurer's Report (See Attached)

Peter updated the BOT on our pending Village of Ridgewood tax form filing. It's a straightforward matter.

Describing it as a "social justice issue," he briefed the BOT on the rule change effective December 1st in the federal Fair Labor Standards Act pertaining to employee overtime pay requirements.

Although this year's Fiber Fest came close to meeting its financial goal, its future is under discussion.

#### 7. Interim Ministry Evaluation

Rob reported that the evaluation is progressing.

#### 8. Safe Congregation Response Team Appointments

Rob moved that Carol Loscalzo, Wally Griffin and Kathy Smolen be appointed to join him and the Minister on the Safe Congregation Response Team. Seconded by Bernie and approved unanimously.

#### 9. Nominating Committee Opening

Rob named Frank Loscalzo to fill the vacancy on the Nominating Committee.

#### 10. Other Leadership Position Openings

Rob announced that Donal Bergin will serve as Co-Chair of the Facilities Committee.

Julie announced that Eric Furman will join the Caring Committee.

#### 11. BOT 2016-17 Goals: Action Item Responsibilities

The BOT reviewed its goal action items and agreed upon the following leadership responsibilities:

- Julie McMurray will be responsible for Partnering with Membership Council to create a membership path
- Sean Brennan will be responsible for formulating Program to Leverage Technology and Enhance Internal Communication
- Holly Nolan will partner with the Membership Council to Promote Awareness of Membership Events.
- Johanna Seale will attend BOT meeting and serve as her own RE Liaison to the BOT. In turn, Laura Krag will attend RE Committee meetings on behalf of the BOT.

All BOT members will be responsible for reviewing our budgeting practices, our short and long term capital improvement plan as well as our long term strategic plan.

#### 12. Settled Minister Contract Question

On behalf of the sub-committee (along with Mike Azzara and Anita DiGiulio) discussing contract terms for a new settled minister, Bernie asked whether the BOT wanted to reiterate a current contractual clause in which the Ministerial Search Committee assumes transitional responsibility in place of the Committee on Ministry for the first six months of the contractual term. The BOT quickly agreed that such responsibility belongs with the Committee on Ministry.

#### 13. Review of Current Budget

Beginning 2017-18 budget preparation, the BOT reviewed the current fiscal year budget. We agreed that the current budget is exceptionally lean and that using any existing reserves for projected annual expenses is ill-advised. We concluded that attracting and retaining new members will be important to the Society's financial wellbeing.

Adjournment at 9:15 PM

Submitted by Bernie Josefsberg

## Election Promises

~ Mark Belletini, from "Sonata for Voice and Silence"

I hear the polls  
are going to be open on Tuesday.  
All day.  
Good. I certainly intend to go to them.  
I certainly invite you to go go them and vote too.  
But today I say the polls  
are not just open on Tuesday.  
I say they are open every day.  
Every hour. Even here. Even now.  
Right now I am going to vote  
for the robin's egg sky,  
the vanilla clouds,  
the purple shadow spreading  
under the ginkgo tree,  
I am going to vote for tulips and redbuds.  
I am going to vote for love  
that does not have  
to run in someone else's circles  
in order to be love.  
I'm going to vote the homeless into homes.  
I'm going to vote the uneducated into classrooms  
that teach them in the way they learn best,  
not the way that would be most convenient.  
I'm going to vote the sick into healing.  
I'm going to vote the lost into belonging.  
I'm going to vote, right now,  
for the right to dream of a world

where the word politics  
doesn't stop me in my tracks,  
and where the word honor still  
has a few good meanings left.  
I'm going to vote right now  
for the power of free people  
to actually be free,  
no matter who they are,  
no matter who has abandoned them,  
no matter who hates them.  
I actually am going to vote for love,  
I am going to vote for truthfulness as the norm,  
not the exception .  
I'm going to vote for a world  
that doesn't vote for killing, control and swagger,  
I'm going to vote for you.  
I'm going to vote for me.  
Right now. Right here. Silently. But for real.