

Live Oak Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 6, 2013

David & Lisa Fry's apartment

Board Members Present: Kris Arrington, Kathryn Duke, Darlene Pagano, Kate Hand.

Absent: Jay Roller **Guests Present:** David Fry, Lisa Fry.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. David virtually lit the chalice and Kris read a poem for the opening.

1. Approve/Modify Agenda and previous month's minutes: Lisa suggested adding a Social Justice request if there's time. The agenda was accordingly revised, and then was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved. Regarding minutes of the April and May Board meetings, both were moved, seconded, and unanimously approved, with abstentions by the people who did not attend the relevant meetings.

2. Finances: David passed out and briefly summarized three budget sheets: Budget vs. Actuals: Approved Budget FY13 P&L, Balance Sheet, and Profit & Loss. These show that we are well within our \$33,000 budget for this fiscal year, which ends June 31.

As for the next fiscal year, at the last meeting, a quorum of the Board approved a draft budget to be presented at the June 30 congregational meeting, which David & Lisa will distribute to members (who are the only ones who can vote) but notify all that if they are interested they can request a copy.

3. July 4 parade and banner. Regarding Live Oak's participation in Alameda's July 4 parade, David reported that the place that rented us a flat bed truck last year is probably unable to do so this year. Kate is looking into other possibilities. Kim has committed to play the keyboard, as she has the past three years. Kate is working with Ty to get the banner printed. Darlene suggested having a July 4 signage layout at the June 30 congregational meeting.

4. Second Sunday – The Worship Committee is responsible for putting together the worship services that now happen twice each month and will soon be three times per month. The Board takes responsibility for planning the Congregational Meetings that happen 4 times/year, whenever there is a fifth Sunday. As for the second Sunday programming, Ty Meier will be leading the discussions, (assisted by Richard S.?), and Renee has been the overall coordinator in developing the idea of what activities Second Sundays will include. Now that it has been decided what we will be doing, we need to identify some one or two people willing to coordinate the ongoing implementation. June 9 is covered except for the potluck. This coordinator will make sure that someone arrives at 3:30 pm for setup of the discussion room and the potluck, and that cleanup and close down are done properly. There has not yet been anyone who has stepped forward to do this.

5. June 30 Congregational Meeting. There will be an interesting mix of activities at this meeting.

- Review, discuss and approve a congregational budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1.
- Prepare signs and possibly other visuals that will be part of Live Oak's participation in the July 4 parade.
- Begin development of a short list (approx. 20) of UU hymns that will be sung frequently in the coming months. Also, sing some of the rounds and hymns that people in attendance want to sing at that time.
- Vote on a change to our by-laws.

6. Pastoral Care Report. Kris reported that Rev. Ben Myers has made clear that his new position and schedule do not permit him to offer pastoral care to Live Oak as had been previously contemplated. Kris is accepting suggestions from Rev. Ben and any other Live Oak congregants who know of a UU minister who could be available for pastoral care when a Live Oak member requests that. She will talk with these candidates to learn how they would see their role in such a relationship.

7. Board training. Current and past Live Oak board members have been invited to participate in a training intended to help them understand more deeply how to be effective board members. There is discussion about having another training offered sometime later to a larger group of Live Oak members interested in the somewhat different focus of leadership development

8. Social Justice/Alameda Point Collaborative. Live Oak is one of a handful of organizations or individuals being publicly acknowledged and thanked by name on the home page of APC's website (apcollaborative.org). This is the result of the Live Oak congregation's financial support of APC's Garden Party event in May.

Kathryn also reported on the APC Farm newsletter development update. APC has just this last week opened up its Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program to the general public, and needs a newsletter to accompany the produce being distributed. There will probably be opportunities for community members to volunteer as "editors" who work with APC residents to turn their newsletter article drafts into final newsletter copy, and/or who help them post articles on APC's website.

9. Welcoming Congregation recognition by UUA. Lisa and Darlene reported that Harvey Milk Day went very well. Nine Live Oak adults most wearing LO t-shirts were there, helping with the Kid Zone and the information table. Welcoming/inclusive faith groups were identified and asked to stand, including, of course, Live Oak. And many accolades were passed along regarding the Kid Zone. The HMD program was excellent and moving. As for Live Oak, there will be a bylaws change proposed at this month's congregational meeting. If approved, the revised sentence will read (proposed addition in italics): The Fellowship embraces all people, including those of every religious background, any racial and ethnic background, any national origin, any educational level, any income level, any level and type of physical and mental development and ability, any affectional or sexual orientation, *gender identity or expression*, and any age.

10. Specific social justice request. Lisa described a letter Live Oak received from a state prison (Avenal) inmate who is doing distance learning. This man, a member of the Church of the Larger Fellowship, is asking Live Oak and other UU congregations for funding to provide textbooks to students doing distance learning. These textbooks would then be available to inmates, who would pass them along to other inmates when they have finished with them. Lisa contacted this distance learning place's director, who told her that he had already been contacted by three other UU congregations. There's a question of whether they are a 510c3. Lisa will investigate further.

11. Expanding LO's music ministry. The Board discussed some recent emails exchanged among several congregational members about being more welcoming to people who enjoy singing with the congregation but cannot read music and are not familiar with many of the UU hymns sung at Live Oak worship services. Kathryn will work with some members to select a list of "Top 20 UU Hymns" based on broad input from the congregation. Meanwhile, she will develop a plan for approximately 30 minutes of talking about and then singing some selected hymns (Top 20 contenders) at the June 30 congregational meeting.

Closing: Kris gave our closing reading and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.