

MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEETING



Date: April 16, 2024

Time: 6:30 pm

IN ATTENDANCE

Role	Name	Present	Absent
Chair	Maie Kellerman	x	
Vice-Chair	Blair Anderson-Croft	x	
Secretary	Tori Bardell	x	
Treasurer	Kim Boyes	x	
Minister	Christopher New	x	
Congregational Care	Berni Hardin	x	
Finance/Stewardship	Bill Hibbard	x	
Ministry & Personnel	Esther Oaks	x	
Outreach	Marg Hetherington	x	
Property Maintenance	Joe Deunk	x	
SSUC Saskatoon	Trisha Little	X zoom	
Spiritual Gatherings	Marilyn Blackall	x	
Affirm	<i>vacant</i>		
Trustees	Pam Boutilier	x	
Guests	Dara Smith	x	
	Joan MacDonald	x	
	Judy Dube	x	
	Brian Rothwell	x	

CALL TO ORDER – 6:31 PM

INTRODUCTIONS

Some new faces and guests in the room – circled the room for brief introductions.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Please add new business:

1. All-Gender restrooms added as point 9A;
2. "Just Like Family" inquiry added as point 9B.

Move to adopt – Bill; 2nd Esther.

All in favour, none opposed or abstaining.

Adopted 6:36 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Board Meeting February 13, 2024

- Bill suggested to add page numbers, Tori noted.

Moved for approval – Esther; 2nd Bill.

All in favour, none opposed or abstaining.

Adopted 6:38 pm

THRIFTY TREASURES MARKET AND BAKE SALE – NEW FORMAT

Joan MacDonald invited by Marg Hetherington – welcome.

Rebranded, new format, simpler format. Common pricing, maybe less money raised, but other goals in mind (community building, eco-recycling). Confirmed that money raised has helped SSUC's operating budget.

New this year: Using "32 Auctions" website for larger items eg. furniture, art. Discussion to expand the committee and do more this one event. Do we see any issues with setting up an online store that might offer used items all year long? Give it some thought.

Perhaps have a direct need for raising funds – property maintenance, power bill, photocopier, etc. Have a board discussion later to discuss where the funds could be used.

Still need volunteers – have 11 so far, maybe 30. Need time commitment clarified.

Email Joan, email address available on website.

REFUGEE COMMITTEE REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO SPONSOR NEW FAMILY

Judy Dube – will SSUC agree to sponsor? The budget is 30-40K.

Request to sponsor Abdu, 27 and wife Fatima with 3-year-old son Hussein. In Lebanon and conditions are unsettled. Reminder that Mohammad and Isha were our first Syrian sponsorship. Soon after, we sponsored Husein and Rokia and family (Mohammad's brother). Abdu is Isha's brother and family.

Current bottlenecks are 5-6 years from application to arrival. We would have a few years to raise the needed funds. The concert in September is a fundraiser for the refugee fund.

Marg moved that SSUC proceed with the needed steps to sponsor Abdu, Fatima and Hussein; Marilyn 2nd. All in favour, none opposed or abstained.

MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a) Date(s) of Board Retreat(s)
 - a. board priorities & functions – Thursday, May 2, 10-3
 - b. stabilize church finances – Friday, May 16, 10-3
- b) AGM Feedback and Questions
 - a. There was a suggestion from pre-meeting to cut down on outreach spending as if our income continues to fall.
 - b. Trustees are confused as to the process of investing in JLF. Investments, ownership rights. Chris has offered to provide the narrative, include JoAnne Van Beek, Jacob Kellerman.
- c) Vacant committee chairs
 - a. Property & Maintenance
 - b. Affirm

NEW BUSINESS

REPORTS:

Reports have been circulated – the high points:

- a) Outreach/Refugee/MFTR Report
 - September concert fundraiser for refugee fund
 - Towels for Bissel Centre – extreme circumstances right now
 - Circulated kids' thankyou letters from Duggan school, and note from Principal
 - 3 new members joined Outreach
- b) Spiritual Gatherings Team Report
 - 2 new members
 - Providing guidance to Sunday gatherings, coordinating leadership during Chris' time away
- c) SSUC Saskatoon Report
 - no meeting in May-Aug
 - book study contemplating advocacy for guaranteed livable income.
 - Pie day was great.
 - Discussion about providing support for the Saskatoon Affirming movement, amid high demands and heavy workload on Trisha.
 - Saskatoon Unitarians – contemplating a joint gathering about expansive spirituality?

d) Treasurer's Report
Funds from Pie Day went to Camp Dragonfly.
Ivan Coyote event broke even.
We need new cheque signers:

Remove Rebecca Aiken, Bill Hibbard, and JoAnne Van Beek
Moved that effective April 16, 2024 the authorized signing officers for the Southminster Steinhauer United Church banking accounts at Servus Credit Union, Edmonton, Alberta are any two of the following:

Kim Boyes, SSUC Treasurer
Maie Kellerman, Board Chair
Jacob Kellerman
Blair Anderson-Croft

Bill moved to proceed; Kim 2nd. All in favour, none opposed or abstaining.

FUNDSCRIP VERSUS GROCERY CARDS

Would like a volunteer to explore and then make a recommendation. Blair Anderson-Croft has accepted and will report back with findings at next Board meeting.

ALL-GENDER WASHROOMS

Marg brought this idea forward to encourage us to move forward with exploring possibilities. Let us not keep it on the back burner. After a good discussion at an Affirm Brunch in the winter, we felt it was time to know what modifications could be made to make the washrooms a safe and accessible place for all genders.

Marg moves that the Board invites the Affirm committee to explore the research on all-gender washrooms with recommendation/update to the October 2024 board meeting.
Marilyn 2nd. All in favour, none opposed or abstaining.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

May 2 Retreat, 10-3
May 16 Retreat, 10-3
May 21, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, 6:30pm

ADJOURN – 8.39 PM