

First Religious Society Parish Board

Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2020

Present: Maureen Adams, Juliana Beauvais, Rebecca Brodish, Rev. Rebecca Bryan, Micah Donahue, Vernon Ellis, Judy Fayre, Kristen Fehlhaber, Ann Haaser, Art Henshaw (via Zoom), Kim Kenly, Jason McLin (via Zoom), Forrest Speck, Karen Young

Absent: Rich Johnson

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the First Religious Society Parish Board was called to order by Karen Young, Parish Board Chair, at 7:03 p.m. on March 11, 2020.

Check-in/Reading

Opening Reading

Rev. Rebecca opened with “We Dream of Peace” by Rev. Marta Valentine, followed by a check-in around the table: “what do you need the most in this moment?”

Open Issues/Strategic Thinking

Minister’s Report

Due to coronavirus restrictions, the UUA President, Rev. Gray, will not be coming to FRS on March 29. This Sunday’s service will be online only (3/15). Discussion followed about doing smaller workshops and meetings online only via Zoom (FRS has a Zoom account).

PB Goal: Mission Vision

Rollout Plan Update & Help

The next step of the rollout, follow-up workshops after Values, Mission Vision and Ends are announced, may need to be online via Zoom. This Sunday’s workshop (3/15) will be postponed.

Ends Implementation

To be discussed at a later date.

PB Goal: Stewardship

Planned Giving Update

No update.

Campaign Update

Kristen Fehlhaber updated the Board about pledges made during the kickoff service on 3/8. No trends to report. Some people are trying to make up for the loss of Verizon cell tower rental income.

PB Goal: Care of Staff/Resources/Ministries

Budget & Lease Update

Regarding their lease, Verizon met with Lark and Kristen about equipment that needs to be removed from steeple. Kristen has confirmed with AT&T that their lease runs through 2029 and let them know that additional space will be available.

Karen Young spoke of the importance of looking at other sources of revenue. Kim Kenly said the Finance Committee had discussed that this task might reside with the Board but will take it back if the Board decides it should.

The following motion was made by Maureen Adams and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the Parish Board authorize the Minister and Kristen Fehlhaber, Director of Finance & Administration to create a team to research and recommend alternative sources of revenue.”

Discussion: The Board decided to amend the motion to assign to Finance Committee.

Amended

Motion: “I move that the Parish Board authorize the Finance Committee to create a team to research and recommend alternative sources of revenue.”

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Environmental Policy – What Next?

Karen Young asked how we can “breathe life” into the new Environmental Policy. Perhaps the Climate Action Project could get involved with generating ideas from, for example, the hospitality committee among others. Karen will ask them.

Board Meetings – Mechanics

Not discussed.

Policy Development

Not discussed.

New Business

Nominations Update

Maureen Adams provided an update that most slots are filled.

Assistant Treasurer Position

Kim Kenly described the two treasurer positions developed with Rich Johnson. Maureen, Kristen, Kim, Rich and Art will meet to finalize responsibilities and titles. The final decision will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Safe Church Policy

The following motion was made by Vernon Ellis and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the board authorizes the Minister to appoint a team to review the recommendations made by Julie Parker-Amery, gather additional recommendations from appropriate staff, and revise the FRS “Safety Policy for Children and Youth” for review and approval by the Parish Board in the fall of 2020.”

Discussion: additional safety protocols beyond children and youth will also be explored.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Warrant – Items to Add?

An article will be added pertaining to the new Treasurer roles.

Regarding the Article suspending certain assignments of responsibility to the Finance Committee for a second year, it was decided to invite Lark Madden to a board meeting to discuss his experience over the past year.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes 2.12.20 Parish Board Meeting
- Draft Minutes Finance Committee 3.4.20
- Draft Notes Trustee Meeting 2.5.20

The following motion was made by Kim Kenly and seconded:

Motion: “I move that all items on the Consent Agenda be approved.”

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:58 p.m. the following motion was made by Forrest Speck and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the Parish Board go into Executive Session.”

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:00 p.m. the Board returned from Executive Session.

Process Check

Karen Young noted that information from prior Process Checks are included in the packet to inform future Board meetings.

Adjournment

Karen Young moved to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ann Haaser, Parish Clerk