

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship (FUF) Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday, April 18, 2025 at 12:30 pm at FUF
MINUTES approved at the meeting on May 23

Present: Nick Coulson, 2nd Vice President / Programs; Maggie Joffe, Treasurer; Jeanine Normand, Recording Secretary; and Phillip Herring, at-large Board Member
Also present: Ashley Weller, FUF Administrator; and members, Mark Ohler, Art Committee Chair; and Mary Anderson, Member Support Chair

ITEM / PRESENTER / ACTION REQUIRED / COMPLETE DATE

1. Call to Order **Nick** time: **at 12:40**

2. Minutes, March 6 meeting **Jeanine** Approved with changes 4/18

3. Treasurer's Report **Maggie** Approved 5/23

Maggie reported that we have moved some funds to other accounts, and it makes more sense now. We got over \$2,000.00 income from our special events. At the end of March, we have about \$200,000.00 in our accounts, less \$3,000.00 in building insurance, which was just paid.

Nick proposed and moved for **Maggie** to investigate and to consider moving approximately \$150,000 into CDs from money markets and the checking account. This is the most stable way to invest/save now. **Jeanine** seconded. Motion passed.

4. Administrator Report **Ashley** Approved 4/18

Ahsley said that there's nothing new to report this month.

OLD BUSINESS

5. Mission Statement **Nick** Approved 4/18

We affirm the mission statement *below* that had already been adopted by the FUF congregation, which **Don Joffe** discovered, and which has 'Earth' correctly spelled.

FUF Mission Statement:

- To explore new ideas
- To search for truth and knowledge
- To take care of the Earth
- To enjoy fellowship with open-minded thinkers
- To support and care for each other
- To create an atmosphere of love and understanding among our members and for those who come after us

Nick made the motion, **Phillip** seconded, and the motion passed.

6. Signage Proposal **Mark O.** Approved 4/18

Mark O. showed us designs using the official UU symbol (U cupping a candle) and asked us about the color choices, which are not going to affect the price. He has worked out a number of details for all of the signs. We all liked that very much. We walked outside around the property to determine the best placement of signage. We'll have two double-sided, "enter" signs (which may also say exit where needed). One will be on Fairhope Avenue opposite to the existing sign and near the cypress tree. Another will be at Bishop Road. In addition, we will have a large, double-sided, very sturdy, FUF sign to sit perpendicular to the back of the building facing Fairhope Ave. We're also asking for two "Welcome" signs to be affixed on either side of the portico at the entrance. **Mark O.** will get the quotes for us, working with the estimate of \$2,000.00.

Nick moved, **Maggie** seconded, and the motion passed.

In addition, **Mark O.** presented to the board a beautiful, framed piece of his art about FUF. We graciously accepted it, and we congratulated **Mark O.** on his art. We will find a good place to display it, and **Irene** may choose to announce it and show it to the congregation on a Sunday morning.

7. Pantry **Nick** Discussion/proposal next month 5/23
We want to make more people aware of the pantry, and how often we fill it. Could we ask other grocery stores if they have a small quantity of food to donate? **Jeanine** and **Mark O.** have ideas about an ongoing member event to swap produce for items that can be donated to the pantry -- for those who grow gardens with an overflow of produce, and for those members who need produce, who can then contribute nonperishables to the pantry by "paying it forward." No decision was made, and **Jeanine** will write this up more clearly.

Also, **Maggie** will ask her husband, **Don**, if he can have to have a proposal for the next meeting about how can we expand our outreach.

8. Pi Day Report **Mark P. & Maggie** motion passed TBA
Maggie noted other events going on in Fairhope, especially the Arts & Crafts Festival, are possibly interfering with Pi Day attendance. We will check other local events around that time. Suggestions include: perhaps increase the price of the slice, and to have whole pies to sell as well. We voted to keep doing Pi Day; details TBA.
Maggie moved to continue it, **Phillip** seconded, and the motion passed.

9. Rummage Sale Report **Elaine** no action required 4/18
It was a wonderful effort on behalf of many FUF members, and it was very successful.

NEW BUSINESS

10. PRIDE Participation **Nick** Affirmed 4/18
We affirmed our participation in this event.

11. Refurbishing Proposal **Maggie, Mary A., & Mark P.** Approved 4/18
We walked with **Mary A.** around the foyer and TED talk room to see what the plan is.

Furniture was rearranged today in the TED talk room. A few older or no longer useful items will be either discarded, donated, or given to members who want them. Those members are invited to make a donation to FUF in exchange.

Jeanine moved to allow up to \$1,000.00 to begin refurbishing the foyer area per the plan. **Phillip** seconded, and the motion passed

12. Membership **Mary A.** Approved 4/18

We reviewed **Mary A.**'s PowerPoint, and approved it for a Sunday program event. We also reviewed the member support report. The first small group circles met, and it was successful.

13. Community Support **Nick** Approved 4/18

Nick proposes that we have a presence at any Juneteenth event in Fairhope. If none in Fairhope, perhaps in Daphne. **Maggie** seconded. Motion passed.

14. Committee Reorganization **Mary A., Maggie, & Irene** ongoing

Mary A. reported on proposed restructuring of the committees, and she also redid the Volunteer Handbook in accordance with this new structure to see if this is how we want to do things. To be continued.

15. May Board Meeting **Nick** the next board meeting: **Friday, May 23, at 12:30 pm** **Irene** sent a message asking that the May board meeting be held on **Friday, May 23, at 12:30 pm**. instead of our usual second Friday of the month. Everyone agreed that we could.

Action item: A message will be sent by **Irene** to the entire board about the date in May, and she will announce it at the Sunday program as well.

16. Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm

Minutes respectfully taken by **Jeanine Normand**, FUF Recording Secretary
These minutes were approved at the meeting on May 23.