

Minutes of Board Meeting 2/9/2022

Meeting Attendance

In Attendance

Tom Cunningham, President; Alice Robinson-Gilman, Vice President; Terri Suess, Treasurer; Peggy Toy, Secretary; Elaine Durbach; Zia Durrani; Jeanine Rosh; Jill Farrer; Andy Weinberger; Lisa Novemsky; Esther Barcun; Birgit Matzerath

The meeting was called to order by Tom Cunningham, President, at 11:07am. A quorum was present.

Agenda

- Review and approve minutes
- Review action items and update status
- News from AEU, the passing of Law'nence Miller, AEU's Director of Administration
- Special Musical Event at ECS building
- Letter to Members from Tom
- Capital Campaign committee update
- Upcoming Platforms

Minutes

Minutes from the 1/12/22 board meeting were reviewed and approved.

Review action items

Items were reviewed and status updated.

Passing of AEU Director of Administration, Law'nence Miller

Tom informed the board of the passing of AEU Director of Administration, Law'nence Miller. Law'nence was a vital member of the Ethical Culture movement for many years. Information will be sent out about any specific activities planned by AEU to celebrate his life.

Special musical event at ECS building

Birgit asked if an in-person piano program could be held at the ECS building, open to members and the public, performed by students from Maplewood who are entering the Leschetizky Gifted Young People's concert in New York City at the end of February. The Leschetizky concert is adjudicated and students who are selected will play in an honors concert the following week. A performance at the ECS building would provide the students with a chance to play before a live audience. There was no opposition to the request. Birgit will do the planning and make sure Covid policies and regulations are followed.

Letter to members from Tom

Tom shared a draft of a letter he will be sending out to ECS members updating them on what has been going on at Ethical, noting some of the upcoming programs and inviting them to join

us. The letter will go out via email to any members who have an email address listed in the directory and by regular mail to those who don't.

Capital campaign update

Terri reported on the work she and Jeanine have been doing on the capital campaign. Jeanine is writing about the society and its background and history; Terri is writing a piece about what our needs are for improvements and repairs to the building. Terri said some of the next steps would include the formation of a committee and drafting of a letter or brochure telling what our campaign is about. Terri has reached out to Vic De Luca and he agreed to meet with us to talk about ideas for outreach, possible funding sources and possible community involvement.

Tom pointed out that many people might rally around the preservation of the ECS building, given that it is a beautiful historic building housing an historic organization, is at the crossroads of two important streets in our town, is right on the border of our two towns and is in the center of Essex County.

Jeanine noted that our insurance company recently inspected the building. Marshall joined the meeting to give an overview of the inspection. No problems were indicated by the inspector at that time in relation to the condition of the building.

Marshall reported that the boiler had a mechanical problem and he had someone come in to repair it. The cost of the repair was covered by the maintenance contract we have with PSE&G.

Family Program update

Tom reported that the families in the Ethical Education program have not been meeting due to the holidays and the cold weather, but they have been communicating through emails and hope to meet on Zoom and in person in April.

Upcoming Platforms

Sunday February 13 - Alice will interview Meredith Sue Willis.

Sunday February 20 - Dr. Mike, will speak.

Sunday February 27 - ECSEC will hold a social get-together on Zoom.

Other business

As a followup to the meeting Tom led on the topic of what we want in a leader, Tom will reach out to the AEU about the Consulting Leader program.

A question was raised about our Facebook page and the importance of having someone maintain and monitor the page if we are going to continue to have a presence on Facebook. Tom reached out to Liz, with a cc to Jeanine and Elaine, to inquire about who is the administrator for the page and who has been putting up posts and maintaining the page. We will follow up on this at our next board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 11:00 am.

Minutes submitted by Peggy Toy