

Minutes of Board Meeting 3/9/2022

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; Jackie Hershops

The meeting was called to order by Alice Robinson-Gilman, Vice President, at 11:03am. A quorum was present.

Agenda

- Review and approve minutes
- Review action Items and update status
- Review and approve Fidelity resolution
- Check status of annual report to AEU
- AEU news
- Upcoming Platforms
- Suggestion to start meetings for members to help foster skills for personal and psychological resilience
- Thoughts about changing our society's name
- Other business

Minutes

Minutes from the 2/9/22 board meeting were reviewed and approved.

Review action items

Items were reviewed and status updated.

Fidelity Bank Resolution

Jeanine reviewed a resolution from Fidelity Bank that is required when changing the signatories on our ECSEC accounts. The resolution empowers Tom, Terri and Jeanine to act on behalf of the board in all interactions related to our Fidelity accounts. (Resolution attached)

Annual Report to AEU

Jeanine is completing the report and has sent out copies to everyone who needs to fill out a section.

AEU News

- Alice announced that Zia has been nominated to the position of vice president of the AEU board.
- Tom announced that, due to the sudden death of Lawrence Miller, Bart has decided not to retire as AEU Executive Director in the summer as he had planned but will stay on

longer to help the AEU adjust and reorganize. Tom will send a note of thanks to Bart on behalf of the board.

Upcoming Platforms

Sunday March 13 - Celebrating our Favorite Women - Discussion in honor of Women's Month

Sunday March 20 - Alice and Sue will lead a platform on reparations with a video presentation from the Coalition on Race and a discussion on the topic.

Members brainstormed ideas for future platforms such as:

- A discussion on ethics in democracy
- A presentation on electric vehicles
- A talk by Colette Battles, who runs the Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy, or perhaps an associate from her organization, to focus on the need for replacement housing here in NJ due to floods and other outcomes of climate change that are displacing people from their homes
- A presentation on adult development. What are the developmental experiences of adulthood?
- A presentation on prosocial behavior - how we can work together better in groups
- A climate change presentation hosted by AEU, with Bill McKibben as the speaker

New Meeting idea

Tom presented the idea of starting up a new meeting for members to get together to share ideas and help each other with skills for personal resilience, handling adversity or solving problems, etc. Members expressed interest in the idea. Tom will develop a proposal.

Thinking About a Name Change

Tom noted that other ethical societies have changed their names, such as the Ethical Humanist Society or the Community of Ethical Culture. He suggested it is something we could consider doing to be more transparent and welcoming to newcomers. Members weighed in. There will be future discussions on the idea.

Other Business

Jill reported that she had received a reply from South Orange Village president, Sheena Collum regarding our capital campaign. She recommended the group Growth for Good as a possible resource to help with fundraising ideas.

A question was raised about whether or not we had an attorney to advise us on bequeathing to the society. Will check on this with Jeanine.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm

Minutes submitted by Peggy Toy