

First Parish Cambridge
Governing Board Minutes
October 20, 2020
(Virtual meeting via Zoom)

Present: Gloria Korsman, Julia Gallogly, Grace Hall, Tod Hibbard, Cade Murray, Jan Puibello, Don Tucker, Gordie Calkins; Rev. Adam Dyer, Carol Lewis, Mandy Neff; Sylvia Wheeler

The meeting opened with chalice lighting and check-in.

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the September 15 meeting
- Report of the September 28 COIC discussion
- Director of Lifespan Faith Development proposal on-line approval
- Minister's report, October 2020
- Director of Lifespan Faith Development October report
- Report of the Director of Administration, October 2020
- Report of the Finance Committee, 2019-2020
- Investment Committee Annual Report 2019-2020
- RET Board Report October 2020
- On the Rise proposal to First Parish
- Request for exception- On the Rise
- Balance Sheet September 30, 2020
- P&L September 2020
- Cambridge councilors say Judge Sragow's removal an injustice, call for reinstatement
- Cambridge Policy Order- SRAGOW
- Demands for return of ousted Judge Sragow include threat to dismantle Homeless Court
- Recall of Judge Roanne Sragow- A message from First Parish Cambridge
- Racall of Judge Sragow [Rep. Marjorie Decker]
- Rev. Dyer statement on Judge Sragow

After general comments, the Consent Agenda was accepted.

Building Update: (Carol, Cade, Tod, Don)

- Discussions with the congregation have been going well
- Be sure to include acknowledgement of contributions from former Building & Grounds members
- Carol and David Torrey are working on requirements from the Historical Commission
- Will be reviewing applications from grant writers.
- Need to start work on preparing bids so they are ready to go when needed
- Have a congregational meeting soon. The board approved having a meeting, authorizing the Building and Worship Teams to set the specific date.
- Need to develop a project plan (timeline)

Strategic Planning Process Proposal: (Sylvia, Gloria)

- This proposal addresses the design of the process
- Use RE process last year as a model

- Consider Rev. Adam's focus on connection/relationships
- We have people who understand how a strategic planning process works
- Get new people involved, while including others, e.g. Governance Advisory Committee members.
- Want to set up a reasonable time frame for completion of the process
- Want to set actionable outcomes, e.g. building renovation, operational issues
- Need to engage staff and working groups in the process, avoiding multiple congregational meetings that seem to draw the same people

Request for Board Candidate Input: (Sylvia, Gloria)

- The board, as well as Ministry Team leaders, are asked to suggest potential nominees to fill upcoming board vacancies.
- Governance Advisory Committee is hoping to find newer members who have not yet served to allow for rotation of leadership.
- GAC also hopes to provide leadership development opportunities.

UUA liaison role: (Grace, Julia)

- Based on discussion at the September 28 meeting on *Widening the Circle of Concern*, the board would like the congregation to become more aware of the role of the UUA, at the national and regional levels, and what they offer to First Parish, both adults and youth.
- It was decided that Julia and Grace will provide suggestions next month as to what the role should encompass and whether it should involve a single individual or a small team.

Fostering Participatory Culture: (Gordie)

Postponed until next month

Cookies Marijuana Dispensary:

Rev. Adam reviewed some of the information in the documents, including support for the business from a prominent Black family in Cambridge. There was discussion concerning the weaknesses in the counter arguments presented by a coalition of Harvard Square businesses and residents. Reservations were voiced about supporting marijuana dispensaries. Support was voiced for supporting Black businesses in Cambridge. The board considered the First Parish position of support for anti-racism. Once all issues were considered, the board was unanimous in its decision to send a letter of support for the establishment of a Black-owned and run marijuana dispensary in Harvard Square. It was noted that the congregation should receive a letter of explanation prior to our submitting the letter of support.

Executive Session:

The board met in Executive Session to discuss staff compensation.

At the next board meeting on November 17, Don Tucker will have the opening words and the check-in question.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Hall, Clerk

Related documents:

Documents listed in Consent Agenda (see above)
Agenda for October 2020
Board memo 2021-2022 nominations
Draft- Planning Process Proposal
2020_08_24 Cookies Harvard Square Background Information
ALD on Cookies Dispensary on October 16
Coalition Letter on Cannabis Shop at 57 JFK
Galarneau on Cookies
Rev. Dyer- Cookies draft letter to city officials
Sample sign-on letter
Uni-Lu non-opposition letter
Board letter in support of Blue Enterprise
Staff Bonus Proposal

Approved by the First Parish Governing Board on November 17, 2020
Grace Hall, Clerk