

Humanists of Linn County  
Board meeting September 28, 2017

Minutes-- Meeting of Humanists of Linn County

VISION: We envision a world where being good without a god is an accepted and respected way of life, where science, reason, compassion, and creativity guide both public policy and personal accountability and where contributions to the greater good of humanity and the planet allow all individuals to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment.

MISSION: Our mission is to create a supportive and vibrant non-theist community in Eastern Iowa through secular education, community and political activism and the promotion of reason, compassion and critical thinking.

Abbreviations used: HLC=Humanists of Linn County , FB=Facebook, FTF=Freethinking Families, FT- Free Thinkers,

Date 9/28/2017

Called to order 6:15 PM

Location Noodles and Company

Purpose: Business meeting

In Attendance:

x Roxanne Gissler

x Alan Diehl

x Connie Clancey

x Paul Pompei

x Derek Nolan

x Joe Stutler

x Adam Blyth

\_ Marcia Swift

Other attendees: Hayley H

QUORUM present

A motion to approve August minutes was made by Alan; seconded by Derek and approved by the board.

Treasurer's Report: our account has a balance of \$4700. Some remaining bills for the symposium need to be paid but should total <\$100/ Several donations have been received and contribute to cash on hand as well as memberships paid in preparation for Annual Meeting. The treasurer's report was approved by the board.

Committee Reports:

Membership/Fundraising –This committee met on 9/13 and offer some membership suggestions:

- Annual membership--\$20 individual or \$10 retiree/student
- Add an annual family membership for \$40 with no definition of number or members of a family. It was suggested that this might be high for some young families and that we should consider how many family members may vote on a family membership.
- Add a sustaining membership of an amount dependent on member. Current sustaining members donate between \$20 and \$300/month. Going forward, create 5 tiers for sustaining members with interesting names such as the "Sagan Level" for large donations. Give a thank you gift such as a t-shirt or mug.

- The membership interest survey is completed. It will go to the board on Workplace, then post to Meet, HLC-FB and FTF-FB for member input.

Website Committee--Derek, Dennis . our wishes for a membership website would be attraction of new members, ease of becoming a member online and paying dues online. Therefore, we would want accounting, finance and interactive features for the website to use in lieu of the current website or as additions to the current website. One software product will not likely do all we want but links can be placed on a website to send a member or send information to the appropriate auxiliary software. Links could facilitate general donations or donations to specific funds. The current website was a test but the photograph in use may be copyrighted so we are not sure whether to adapt the current website or just create a new one to add the desired features. Interaction member sign up and donations are highest priority. Cost per month of available software packages will be evaluated after set up and usage.

Shadow Donations--10/24 meeting of donors will be held at Jim's house. Four currently confirmed to attend. Several more possible. Rocky and Jim to present accomplishments, goals of group (including possible establishment of a facility), etc. What will work best for donations? Endowments? Lump sums of cash? Hayle will help with strategic planning and will organize a meeting of board members to discuss this prior to 10/24.

Ad hoc video committee did not meet.

Nomination committee--Rocky spoke for Gary P.--one person per position. It was suggested that FTF coordinator be added to the board to facilitate support and communication between the 2 groups. Paul will transition out of treasurer but would like to serve on the board coordinating projects such as Highway Clean up. A motion to add 2 at large positions to the board (one for FTF coordinator, one for project coordinator) was made by Joe and seconded by Adam. The motion was approved by the board with 1 abstention.

## Old business

SOP Manual—goal: officers to provide written description of duties. tabled for now. keep working on your job description. A folder has been created on DRIVE for board members to contribute SOP drafts.

## New business or events occurring before next board meeting posted on FB and MeetUp

Nomination process and timeline (should we close nominations 2 weeks prior to annual meeting?) Role of nominations committee/election committee (and are these the same?). This topic was tabled until after the annual meeting.

Annual meeting--a draft of the annual report was presented by Connie. Board members will review and edit in time for revision and printing prior to 10/15. We will still need a budget page from Paul and a finalized membership list which will be created from the list on DRIVE closer to the meeting. The Thanking Donors section will be replaced by the Founders Award this year, though we agree that ongoing appreciation to donors needs to be acknowledged.

Founders Award will be presented to Niles and Carol R. in recognition of their founding role in Iowa Secularists . That group spun off several groups (Corridor A-team, Iowa Freethinkers and Humanists of Linn County) and they have been members of each of these groups. We will present a nice plaque and a lifetime membership in HLC to Niles and Carol in appreciation of their consistent support for atheists in Linn County. We will supply refreshments at the annual meeting as an expression of appreciation to the membership.

New member meetups (quarterly?) were successful for IAF (mostly new members with just a few board members); should we do this? Tabled for now.

Evensi--how does this work? Are we using it? Tabled for now

#### ICON42

T-shirt table: Connie and Rocky will be at the table from 2pm to 6pm Friday; Chris, Adam and Rocky will share times at the table during the 10 am to 6 pm session Saturday; 10 am to 3 pm Sunday may be omitted if sales have not been good Friday and Saturday.

Panel discussions- Future Religions and Why do We Believe False Things? will have HLC representation.

Carl Sagan's Birthday, November 9th. The observatory near the Palisades would welcome an HLC event and would be willing to do a presentation such as a program about Carl Sagan. They appear to be very science friendly and looking for ways to present information to schools, etc. Are we interested in hosting an event for Carl Sagan's birthday with a fundraiser component such as apple pies/turnovers (based on Carl Sagan apple pie recipe with ingredient #1= 1 universe) or moon pies? The board was very interested. More information to follow.

FTF--Hayley reported that some in the FTF group are interested in routine get togethers such as Sunday assemblies. So far, the largest group activity has involved 5 families (trip to the Natural History Museum in Iowa City). The public FTF page has many members (over 70) but these are apparently 'browsers' since only a small number of people actually come to events. Hayley is going to host a brainstorming session to find out what members want, how many would be willing to share in organizing activities, would a link to a private page of more active members be desirable, etc. The group is poised to become larger and more active but methods for growth need to be determined.

Thanking Donors--how do we do this? (Huber, most recent) Cash vs inkind donations  
"Founders Award" to Niles and Carol

Use of WORKPLACE--working? Not working? Suggestions? Tabled due to time.

Derek suggested a donation to Puerto Rico and other flooded locations needing assistance. It was suggested that we take donations at coffee and match them up to a certain amount of money and donate to Foundation Beyond Belief, a reliable foundation for giving. A motion to that collect donations at next 3 coffees and match funds up to a total of \$250 for donation to Foundation Beyond Belief was made by Derek and seconded by Adam. The motion was approved by the board.

Adjournment: a motion to adjourn was made by Joe, seconded by Paul and approved by the board. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Submitted by Connie Clancey, Secretary