

2018-07 (JULY) Minutes of the Open board meeting of Humanists of Linn County

The regular Open Board meeting of the Humanists of Linn County was called to order at 6:15 P.M. on Thursday, July 12, at Noodles, Collins Road. The Treasurer presided, and the Secretary was present. A quorum was present. Two guests attended.

Note that this is our first meeting moved from the 4th Thursday of the month to the 2nd Thursday of the month. This will be the schedule going forward.

The minutes of the June Open Board meeting were reviewed, and Marcia moved that they be approved. The motion passed.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$6869.89 with no outstanding bills. Connie moved that the Treasurer's report be approved. The motion passed.

Social Justice Advocacy Workgroup—Marcia reported that our booth at CR PrideFest on Saturday, July 7, was highly successful with many visitors to the booth and many name/email addresses on the signup sheet we provided. Marcia will email all on that list, thanking them for visiting the booth and providing social media options for further contact and information on events. It was suggested that we have a standard form for tables at events and that it include a field for information about if/how the person has heard of our group. Suggestions for future events:

- merchandise tracking (separation of church and state buttons were all distributed—how many do we need?)
- HLC t-shirt with a separation of church state message and possible design variations on that (plain, rainbow, etc.)
- consider targeting t-shirt designs to each event
- provide a donation jar
- find our SQUARE credit card chip/swipe equipment for convenient sales
- use our new handouts to initiate conversation with people dropping by the booth.

A secondary issue is storage of HLC possession (tables, canopy, tablecloth, banners, t-shirts, decals, buttons, etc.). Adam may not be able to keep these in his garage any longer. Can anyone store them and would division of materials among several board members be an advantage or disadvantage as we prepare for events? Adam will photograph what he has, and we will discuss this at the next meeting. Marcia already has the tablecloth and can keep it.

Volunteer and Partner Relations Workgroup—Connie reported that the prime/paint of the new Willis Dady project is so far unsuccessful. A combination of heat and vacation schedules contribute. A Habitat for Humanity group will come 7/22 to paint so we may try one more call for people to prime the building. Posting events on Facebook or MeetUp does not work well for a project that is weeks long. In addition, Connie probably provided too many choices of days and times which made responding too difficult. She may try one more posting of a 'prime the building' event, choosing only one day, one time and see if that works better. However, she has reported to Willis Dady not to count on us for workers.

In contrast, we had a very successful meal event at Willis Dady. The homeless shelter is initiating a focus group project, meeting with residents of the shelter every other week to discuss how Willis Dady can better help them transition to their own homes, jobs, etc. Providing a meal for this event is intended to make it easier for residents to attend right after work or if their families are on site.

On July 2, we provided a lasagna dinner for 30 to the focus group. We were told there would be 'about 20 residents' but that the group may vary in size. This amount fed all members of the focus group plus some of their children who were present, and shelter residents who arrived home later from work. We received a nice thank you note from Willis Dady which Connie posted on Facebook, generating good public comments. Though the focus group will meet every other week, the board agreed to provide only one meal in August and one in September. We hope that known frequency will help get volunteers. We will discuss this project at the annual meeting to get member input on volunteer availability, funding from the treasury when volunteers are sparse and the Willis Dady partnership in general—is it the best choice? Would members volunteer more for different partners? Suggestions: always post a thank you note after each meal event to sites where the event was advertised; figure out how to make the donate button work on Facebook so we can easily capture donations; specify the occasional coffee as a fundraiser for the focus group meal project, continue to simplify instructions for Perfect Potluck for better member sign up activity.

Website and Social Media—the board reviewed an application from Tyler Owen to be added to the board and further approved his appointment as Social Media Manager to provide consistent attention to our various social media sites and our website. He will be given admin privileges for these sites and will work on improving them, determining why the 'pay' or 'donate' buttons are not functioning, etc. Tyler is skilled with social media, podcasting, etc., has helped us in the past and now lives in this area so is able to add his skills to our organization. Marcia presented a draft of a Social Media Policy for Board of Directors and, after discussion, moved adoption with minor edits. The motion was passed. A separate policy will be developed relating to moderation of public or member discussions on HLC web pages. Tyler will work on this.

Annual Meeting—the Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 7th, contingent on availability of an appropriate site. Per bylaws, a nomination committee is needed. Marcia and Joe will serve, and Denny will be contacted to serve as well. The day of the meeting/election, an ad hoc committee will be formed to prepare and count ballots. The fall symposium has been combined with the annual meeting this year to focus on attracting new members, meeting the needs of current members and assessing needs for affiliate groups. We will need a venue with audiovisual facilities for a large group as well as separate rooms for breakout discussions of more specific member interests. The Marion Library was proposed, and Tyler and/or Hayley will investigate available facilities for 10/7. The group meeting will focus on what members do or what members need. A speaker from each of our existing committees may summarize plans/achievements; speakers from other groups in the state may do the same. Awards could be presented to outstanding members or donors. Hayley is planning membership engagement activities, breakout groups and their targets and a follow-up survey. Tyler suggested that once a month, 20-30 minutes could be set aside at coffee for a planned presentation of a topic of member interest. This would be posted on MeetUp as part of the event. The remainder of the coffee would be free discussion or conversation. We can discuss this at the Annual Meeting, see if there is interest or use this idea to stimulate other ideas as well.

A 'kickoff' for Membership Week will be held 1 week prior at coffee; there are regulars at coffee that are not members and to encourage membership, a \$5 discount will be offered, dropping a membership to \$15 or \$5 for a student or senior. We will also confirm that current memberships are active with dues up to date. It would be a nice touch to send thank you notes to renewing members. Per bylaws, new members will not be able to vote this year because a 90-day membership is necessary prior to receiving a ballot, but we want to build a larger membership to diversify and serve member interests. Monthly pledges will also be encouraged to provide a known working budget for HLC activities. The goal is

pledge levels and corresponding thank-you gifts analogous to IPTV or perhaps addition of new pledge names into a drawing for cash prizes.

Science in Schools—The principal at Wilson Middle School is coordinating the science equipment order and will send the bill to HLC. We will plan a 'presentation celebration' with the teachers and students for some time in September but the teachers will already have the new equipment and will be using it in the classroom. Any of the remaining \$1000 budget will be donated to help fund a field trip to Kirkwood to learn about CNC machines and 3D printing.

Carl Sagan birthday party 11/9 update: Connie emailed the Palisades Observatory and left a phone message, but no one has responded to either communication yet. She will keep trying.

Continue to meet at Noodles? —Adam will check on Cibo availability for a change in venue.

Adam moved to adjourn the meeting, the motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by Connie Clancey, Secretary