

## Humanists & Freethinkers of Cape Fear

## Minutes of Executive Board Meeting, May 5, 2015

**Members in Attendance:** Elaine Warren, President; Audrey Santangelo, Vice President; Ron Cochran, Treasurer; Chris Knigge, Secretary; Nancy Bair, Jane Nelson, Anne Rose, Mike Werner and Susanne Werner.

Member Absent: Jamie Pond.

Call to Order: Elaine called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Elaine read a personal statement.

Approval of Minutes: Audrey made a motion to approve the minutes and Anne seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was presented and is attached. The current checking balance is \$4004. The capital account amount is \$1488. The report is attached.

Susanne suggested that the future treasurer's reports itemize the expenses and income items by category which would make the report more informative. Chris observed that the general membership should have access to this information.

Jane volunteered to practice on Quick Books to determine if it's possible to use this program to simplify the process.

Chris asked if we could make some announcement to the general membership about accessing the posted minutes and treasurer's report.

Jane observed that the boat trip was good public relations.

Ann asked if an item she had prepared could be inserted into the agenda. Elaine agreed to the suggestion. Ann explained that she has had 20 years experience as a nonprofit executive. Her experience instructs her that we have, "Too many irons in the fire and 500 Meet up members." She suggested forming committees. She prepared potential categories and asked the board members to step up and head each of the seven proposed committees. Anne said the Social Action committee should be the main one as, "We are a branch of the AHA- it should drive everything we do." The plan would be, as is customary, for each committee leader to report back to the executive board.

During the discussion that followed Mike observed that churches generally follow this model.

Anne made the motion to approve her committee plan and Nancy seconded it.

Discussion followed. Audrey observed that some committees already exist. Ron suggested that some committees may need cochairs. Mike disagreed; saying co-chairs don't work. Nancy said that if we approve this it won't be set in stone and that involvement creates interest. Susanne said that people have to be asked. Mike said that if you leave an offer to help open, you generally get the last person you need.

The motion passed by unanimous vote. The chairperson slots were filled as follows:

- 1. Social Action/Community involvement, Ron.
- 2. Program Committee, Nancy
- 3. Membership Committee, Audrey
- 4. Social Committee, Anne

- 5. Fundraising Committee, Elaine
- 6. Publicity and Promotion Committee, Nancy
- 7. Bylaws Committee, Susanne

Elaine raised the issue of parents wanting to connect with others to network about raising freethinking children. She suggested forming a chat room. Anne explained that these are problematic. It was decided to check with other local groups which host parent groups. Anne said she could announce a Meet up group social activity for parents which would have an open date until enough interest is obtained. There was general approval for Anne to proceed.

There was a brief discussion about the Newcomer's meeting held last month. Elaine mentioned problems with overbooking and the fact that it seemed to have been run like a support group. Jane said she didn't hear negative comments. It was suggested that more blue hand out bag packets be prepared for the future. Chris observed that virtually all of the information in packets in the past had been from the American Humanist Association. She asked if other organizations' information could be included.

Nancy asked for a title for each speaking event as the media requests same. Audrey will obtain titles from the speakers. Jane questioned whether a speaker from Good Shepherd would be a good fit for the group. The consensus was that it may not be. Paige Bingham will speak in October or November.

There will be no Bridge Center meetings in July or August; neither will there be Freethought Flix during the summer. Elaine suggested that we schedule the next newcomer's meeting at the Bridge Center so attendance numbers needn't be the issue it was at the prior meeting when there was not enough room for regular members to attend the mix.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for June  $4^{th}$ . Anne will secure the library meeting room for 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. if possible.

Suzanne suggested that Elaine announce the new committee structure and how to find the minutes and treasurer's report on the site at the next regular meeting at the bridge center.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Anne Rose, Secretary pro tem