

FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY FOUNDATION OF MADISON, INC.

Meeting Minutes – October 23, 2023

Adopted: January 29, 2024

Present: Connie Beam (President), Kathy Luker, Annette Hellmer, Pete Marion, Dean Hessler (Treasurer)

Also Present: Joy Steiglitz-Gottschalk (FUS Trustees Rep)

Connie called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes from July 11, 2023 Meeting

Connie apologized for not reading the draft minutes in advance of the meeting and asked to make the following amendments to the draft minutes:

Correct spelling of Emily Cusic Putnam's name

Insert as the 4th paragraph:

Visitor Welcome and Comments

Connie welcomed members of the FUS Congregation who shared their thoughts about socially responsible or ESG funds. She explained that the Foundation has been studying SRI/ESG funds for some time and will continue to do so.

Under **Treasurer's Report (Dean)**, add FY23 to "The full report for FY23 is as follows:"

Under **Treasurer's Report (Dean)/Net income-**, delete the "-" from in front of – \$133,901.87

Edit paragraph under Net Income as follows:

Connie reports a gift from the Ed Kolner Estate in the second quarter of \$25,000 **is donor designated to the Charlotte Helstad Fund.** ~~With this gift and the~~ **We have** \$49,000 in our money market, ~~there~~ **which** is enough cash for this quarter's expenses and the accountant's fee.

Change **President's Report (Connie)** to **FY24 Officer Elections**

Under **President's Report**, change **Fiscal Year 2023** to **Fiscal Year 2024**

MOTION: A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made and seconded.

Motion passes

Treasurer's Report (Dean)

Dean reported that our assets are down -\$ 107,027.57 from the last quarter for a total of \$3,365,493.28 at 9/30/23. The full report for the first quarter of FY24 is as follows:

Balance Sheet

Assets

Vanguard investments totaled \$3,333,933.09

WCCN microfinance note \$ 31,560.19

Liabilities

Custodial funds totaled \$117,348.35
Friends of the Meeting House \$90,652.15
UU Alliance \$26,696.20

Net Assets (Equity) \$3,248,144.93

Income Statement (Profit & Loss) for June 30, 2023 through September 30, 2023

Income

Vanguard Investment income/loss totaled **-\$93,964.90**
WCCN microfinance note interest paid \$0
Donations \$34,333.33 (Without Donnor Restriction)
Total income for the quarter **-\$59,631.57**

Expenses

Program distributions from Donor funds to FUS totaled \$44,296.00
Foundation administrative expense \$3,100
Custodial fund earnings expensed totaled \$3,933.19

Net income for year **-\$103,624.56**

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as presented.

Motion passes

Gifts Received

Four gifts were received during the quarter: \$25,000 from the Ed Kolner Estate for the Charlotte Helstad Fund; \$1,000 from Rosalind Woodward for the Society Fund; \$8333.33 from the Marilyn Carien Estate; and \$5,000 from the Michael May Estate (which was recorded as a pledge in FY23). The Carien gift was one-third of an unrestricted gift from her estate to FUS. Per FUS advisory policy, the Board of Trustees split the gift three ways with one-third going to FUS capitol fund; one-third to FUS operating budget; and one-third to the FUS Foundation.

MOTION: Peter moved and Annette seconded a motion to place the unrestricted Carien gift into the Society Fund.

Motion passes

MOTION: Kathy moved and Peter seconded a motion to place the unrestricted May gift into the Stonehauers' Fund in honor of Michael May's dedication to preserving the FUS Meeting House.

Motion passes

Portfolio Review

Annette Helmer reviewed the Investment Report prepared by David Kuenzi.

She commented that our decision to rebalance the portfolio at the July meeting was timely as stocks were down in the last quarter, and our portfolio did better than our benchmark.

While the quarterly return was -2.7%, the calendar year-to-date return is 8.3%, which is in line with benchmark returns.

MOTION: Dean moved and Kathy seconded a motion to approve the investment report as presented.

Motion passes

Connie reported that there is \$92,400 in our money market account so there is no need to raise cash for the ensuing quarter. Annette commented that the money market is currently paying a good return.

Discussion: Sharing Information About the FUS Foundation with FUS Members and the Public (Kathy)

After the July 11 Annual Meeting, which was attended by several members of the FUS Environmental Action Team and the FUS Racial Justice Team, Connie received an email from the Environmental Action Team requesting a copy of our investment holdings (which were also shared at the Annual Meeting). The Team wishes to use a tool to evaluate the portfolio and recommend a timeline for the Foundation to divest from fossil fuel holdings. Connie provided the information requested, but she has not yet heard back from the Team. In addition, several Foundation Board members have become aware that some FUS members are not aware of the Foundation's extensive research into Socially Responsible/ESG Investing and the reporting it has provided to the FUS Trustees. Kathy led a discussion on how to improve communication about the Foundation activities. The Board agreed to take the following actions:

1. Ask the Environmental Action Team to report back to us their findings or share with us the evaluation tool they are using.
2. Make more information available on the Foundation's webpage at www.fusmadison.org/foundation/
The webpage already includes extensive information about the Foundation's purpose, history, goals and funds, as well as the audited financial statements, Reports to the Congregation and how to make a gift to the Foundation. We will add the following information:
 - Meeting Minutes
 - Feature the Foundation's goals in a more prominent way to emphasize the Foundation's fiduciary responsibility to FUS.
 - The Foundation's ESG Report to the FUS Trustees from January 2022
3. Refer people with questions to our webpage, and put a note in the Red Floors about where to find our webpage on the FUS website.
4. Improve the annual report to the FUS Congregation which is issued at the Spring Parish Meeting. Include return on investment and a graph showing how much the Foundation has contributed to FUS in the past 10-20 years.
5. Continue to study and identify SRI/ESG funds that are well established and will likely not negatively impact our portfolio's return should we choose to invest in them. To be discussed at our April meeting.

Staff Report

Monica was unable to attend the meeting. She will provide a report on how distributions from the Foundation are being applied to the FY24 budget.

President's Report

Connie presented dates for 2024 quarterly meetings. She will run the dates by our accountant before finalizing them. Board members should watch for an email from her confirming the dates.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:13pm.

Minutes by Connie Beam