

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

11 February 2023 13:00-16:00

Humanists UK, 39 Moreland Street, London EC1V8BB

Present: Tamar Ghosh (TG), Neil Hawkins (NH, Chair), Charley Jarrett (CJ), Ruth Kaufman (RK), Ewan Main (EM), Ann O'Connell (AOC, Treasurer), (AR) Emma Shepherd (ES), Simon Walker-Samuel (SWS)

In attendance: Andrew Copson (AC, Chief Executive and Company Secretary), Aaron Wilkins (AW, EA to CEO) Minutes

Item		Action	Deadline
01/23	<u>Procedural Matters</u>		
01/23/01	Apologies for absence: Neil McKain, Sophy Robinson, Andrew Russell, Iain Deboys		
01/23/02	Declarations of interests: Andrew Copson declared a conflict of loyalties in the meeting based on his membership of the Rationalist Association. Ewan Main declared an interest regarding the allocation of increased budget to ceremonies as he is a current celebrant.		
01/23/03	Minutes of the last meeting: the minutes of the meeting held on 05 November 2022 were approved with no amendments.		
02/23	<u>Management</u>		
02/23/01	AC presented the 2022Q4 Management report, drawing members attention to the new format of the report and welcoming feedback on this. AC mentioned some improvements to the reporting structure which are already under consideration.		
02/23/02	AC reported there were no serious incidents in 2022Q4.		
02/23/03	Board members asked questions on various subjects relating to the management report. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board members asked about Liam Whitton's recovery after his accident and AC provided a brief update on his return to work. Members wished to extend their best wishes to Liam.• Members asked about the circumstances around the dismissal of the Press Manager and lessons learned as a result.		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NH also asked for more details about the recent progress we have made in advancing our work with the MoD and the Branch pilot project. AC provided some information about our ongoing negotiations with the MoD as well as some context around ongoing difficulties with our Branch Coordinators and a solution where we are planning a strategy day to bring together the coordinators, AC and Alistair Litchen alongside other members of SMT. NH also asked about the impact of the new Sunak administration on our work, AC explained some of the challenges posed by the current administration for our campaigning aims. AC also provided some additional context around our ongoing legal dispute with Kent County Council over their refusal to admit a non-religious member of their SACRE. 		
02/23/04	It was suggested that a separate branch project risk register might be useful, something AC agreed to consider with the team.	AC	
02/23/06	The Board discussed the accounts and management reports, in particular the additional £100k in expenditure in 2023 recommended to the Board by the Finance and Audit Committee in the accounts, based on the lower than anticipated 2022 deficit, to support the timely development of critical areas of work in Humanist Ceremonies, Humanist Care, and our sections and networks. Members welcomed the news of better than expected performance at the end of 2022, and congratulated the executive on this. AC provided a brief update on the financial outlook for 2023, where progress has been slowed by a range of factors including Liam Whitton's leave of absence due to ill health but income generation was within budget. Members also raised the possibility of investing in property but decided that any further discussion about this would need to happen later.		
02/23/07	The Board agreed to the FAC's recommended increase in expenditure of £100k in 2023.		
03/23	<u>Governance</u>		
03/23/01	AC and NH provided a brief update on the trustee and Officer Reviews for 2023, reporting that the process had been completed and that no major issues were identified.		
03/23/02	It was agreed to look at the possibility of amending the trustee and officer review process to allow reviewers to see the comments that they make.	AW	

03/23/03	<p>The Board agreed to adopt the 2023 Risk Register proposed by the Risk Subcommittee. Members of the Board observed that the new process worked well, though some members thought that we could improve the level of engagement by refining the conversation during the away day.</p> <p>AW will query the removal of the risk related to political parties</p> <p>AC will ask Catriona McLellan about the controls to mitigate the risk around F7 and whether it includes external fraud</p>	AW	
		AC	
03/23/04	<p>The Board noted there were six vacancies for elected members this year and they agreed to appoint the following scrutineers for counting the votes of any election:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ewan Main - Charley Jarrett 		
03/23/05	The Board discussed the size and skills of the Board in relation to the recruitment of new members. Members registered their views on the advantages of limiting the number of Board members or indeed the number of new members.		
04/23	<u>Confidential minute on grounds of commercial sensitivity</u>		
05/23	<u>Any Other Business</u>		
05/23/01	<p>The Board agreed to appoint the following Board members to the Board Recruitment Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Charley Jarrett - Sophy Robinson 		
05/23/02	NH provided some feedback on a meeting with Claris D'cruz about being a facilitator for a governance review, informing board members that we are awaiting a proposal from her about how a review may work.		
05/23/03	<p>Board members discussed the role of Board members at our events, proposing that there might be an advantage to bringing Board members to major events through the year for networking.</p> <p>AC and the team will consider the question of Board member involvement in our events</p>	AC	
05/23/04	AW will email members about the expenses process for trustees attending the AGM	AW	

06/23	<p><u>Date of next meeting:</u></p> <p>Board of Trustees Meeting on Saturday 13 May 2023 13:00-16:00 at 39 Moreland Street, London EC1V 8BB</p>		