

# FirstU Board Meeting Minutes

Our mission is to “Kindle the light within and inspire courage  
to nurture the web of life and to create a just and compassionate world.”

Date: Wednesday 2024/08/21 from 7 to 9pm

Main Goals: To address various campus redevelopment issues and various board-related items

Attendees: Chuck Shields, Brent Nicolle, Guy Belleperche, Mary Ella Keblusek, Amy Berube, Phil Nagy, Nancy Cloutier, Carmen Contreras, Rev Eric, Michelle Jackson

Regrets: Carl Sonnen, Jen Brennan

Timekeeper: Phil Nagy

Process Monitor: Brent Nicolle

Minutes taken by: Amy Berube

## FirstU Board Covenant (summary)

- Be considerate towards one another
- Be open, honest and respectful
- Serve our role to the best of our ability
- Foster a spirit of patience and courage
- Speak with one voice
- Develop and promote genuine relationships
- Honour our faith

## Minutes

| Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>1. Call to Order:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Check-in</li><li>○ Opening Reading [Brent]</li><li>○ Opening song [Carmen]</li><li>○ Assignment of Timekeeper [Phil Nagy] and Process Monitor [Brent Nicolle]</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>2. Consent Agenda:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Approval of this Agenda</li><li>○ Approval of Board Minutes 2024/05/15 <i>Appendix A</i></li><li>○ Membership applications from Salim Uddin and Malika Moutli <i>Appendix B</i></li><li>○ Pledge Campaign Team update <i>Appendix C</i></li></ul> <b>Moved by:</b> Nancy Cloutier , <b>Seconded by</b> Brent Nicolle, <b>Passed</b> |
| <b>3. Minister's Report</b> <i>Appendix D</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

#### 4. **President's Report**

Chuck has spent the past months occupied largely with campus redevelopment issues - meetings, responding to expressions of concern, generating submissions to the city's Planning Committee to support the project and organising the Aug. 14 meeting at Unitarian House.

##### 6a. **Selecting FirstU reps to the Landco Board:**

A group of board members came together and conducted interviews to select the initial board members. The outcome of those interviews was the selection of three candidates.

The First Unitarian Board moves to appoint Brent Nicolle, Lisa Sharp and Bill Van Iterson to the initial 'Landco' board. (This is for the 16 story building).

**Moved** by: Guy Belleperche, Seconded by: Carmen Contreras, Passed

##### 6b. **Review process to use in the future to identify FirstU reps for the "Landco" board:**

An initial discussion happened and the process will be finalised in the coming months. In order to move forward, the length of "Landco" board member terms needs to be established before the signing of the initial contract for appointment of the board members terms need to be established. In order to avoid high turnover in a given year the initial board terms will be of one, two and three years respectively. The candidate to occupy each term will be determined at a later date.

The board moves one, two and three year terms respectively for the initial "Landco" board members.

**Moved** by: Phil Nagy, seconded by: Amy Berube, Passed

#### 8. **Update on campus development** (information items)

- Review current status of approval process by the city of our redevelopment application

Our application will be considered by the city's Planning Committee on Aug. 28. If it is approved there it will go to the full council. It is expected to be in mid-September.

This Monday the city's planning staff released their report that summarises our application and makes a recommendation to the committee. This full report is included in the documents in the Google folder. It is the one that begins with ACS2024... The quick summary is that it is very positive and staff are recommending approval of our application. For a quick sense, read the first few pages that include the report, pages 1 - 10. Half of that is the English version and the other half in French.

- Review Aug. 14 Listening and Q&A session at Unitarian House and plans for future sessions *Appendix E*

- Cultural ground-breaking session by OAHS

At the monthly update meeting that First U, Theia and OAHS hold, Cathay Connor, the lead in this project for OAHS shared the exciting news that they want to conduct a cultural ground-breaking ceremony on their land at the beginning of October, probably on the 2nd with other events on the 1st. This would be an exciting time to participate with them in celebrating the beginning of this journey to build affordable housing aimed at Ottawa's indigenous community. We will continue to be in contact with them and will pass along additional information as we have it.

#### 9. **Receive and adopt suggestion regarding setting AGM and FCM dates**

Carl checked with all committee and team leaders on fixed dates for FCM and AGM. After some discussion the final Sunday in October and April have been established as date.

The board moves the following concerning congregational meetings:

The **FCM** fall will occur on the ***last Sunday after service every October*** (2024-10-27 this year). And the spring **AGM** will occur on the ***last Sunday every April*** (2025-04-27 next spring.)

Moved by Nancy Cloutier, Seconded by Mary Ella Keblusek, Passed

#### 10. **Review plans for the Board retreat**

The board discussed what they will be doing at the board retreat on September 13th and 14th.

#### 11. **Board self-evaluation – review next steps**

Board members were given a self evaluation to do and asked to submit it by September 4th.

#### 13. **Closing**

- Feedback from Process monitor
- Closing reading [Nancy]
- Adjournment