

INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF LINN COUNTY--BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Minutes of May 5, 2016

Members present: Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Alan Diehl, Aaron Doolin, Al Fisher, Susan Liddell, Brenda Mitchell, Paula Mitchell, Nancy Rhodes, Todd Thalblum, Eugenia Vavra.

Guest: Shannon Beck.

President Todd Thalblum called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

INSPIRATION

The following inspiration was given by Alan Diehl:

THE SKELETONS OF DREAMS

He found giants
in the earth: Mastodon,
Mylodon, thigh bones
like tree trunks, Megatherium, skull
big as boulders—once,
in this savage country, treetops
trembled at their passing.
But their passing was silent as snails,
silent as rabbits: nothing at all recorded
the day when the last of them came
crashing through creepers and ferns,
shaking the earth a final time,
leaving behind them crickets,
monkeys, and mice.
For think: at last it is nothing
to be a giant—the dream
of an ending haunts tortoise and Toxodon,
troubles the sleep of the woodchuck
and the bear.

Back home in his English garden,
Darwin paused in his pacing,
writing it down in italics
in the book at the back of his mind:

*When a species has vanished
from the face of the earth,
the same form never reappears...*

So after our millions of years
of inventing a thumb and a cortex,
and after the long pain
of writing our clumsy epic,
we know we are mortal as mammoths,
we know the last lines of our poem.

Philip Appleman, "The Skeletons of Dreams," originally published in *Darwin's Ark* (Indiana University Press, 2009)

MINUTES

Eugenia Vavra moved and Al Fisher seconded approval of the April minutes as corrected, following discussion regarding the roles of the steering committee and the IRCLC board of directors to the Children of Abraham.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee: In Al Fletcher's absence, Todd Thalblum presented the report which Al had emailed to board members.

Income in April was \$26.07.

Disbursements were \$219.00.

Checking account balance is \$1,586.03.

Money market account balance is \$16,368.79.

Nancy Rhodes moved approval of the report, seconded by Alan Diehl. Carried.

There were no new members in April.

Community Relations Committee report was presented by Brian Daugherty.

--*Children of Abraham* meeting will be held June 5 in the Kesler Auditorium of Hickok Hall at Coe College from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The topic is "Repairing/Healing the World".

The presentation of "The Baha'i Relationship to Abraham" is available on YouTube at

<https://youtu.be/eLKrRBRIgbo>.

--*University of Religion*: Hassan's presentation on "Life and Example of Mohammad" has been postponed and nothing has yet been selected to replace it.

--*Ethical Perspectives on the News*: We have received no updates on upcoming programs from Cedric Lofdahl.

Event Committee report was presented by Todd Thalblum and Charles Crawley.

--*Holocaust service* was an extremely well-supported event, attended by over 400 people. There was excellent publicity, including an article in The Gazette and social media advertising.

--*Thanksgiving Service* will be held November 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Whipple Auditorium of the downtown library. The theme is "Healing our Divisions". Zuiko Redding of the Zen Center will be the guest speaker and her topic is "We are all human beings".

Because the library now closes at 8 p.m. a motion was made by Al Fisher, seconded by Brian Daugherty, that we request the library extend its hours for this event to 9 p.m. and that we appropriate \$100 to cover the extended hours. Carried.

Todd Thalblum suggested that we ask the library to provide refreshments and the cost be taken from the IRCLC funds.

The communication committee was asked to publicize the event. Temple Judah will compile the bulletins.

Al Fisher presented two organizations as possible recipients of the offering received: Linn County Food Bank and Community Overflow Winter Shelter System. A decision will be made at a later meeting.

Nancy Margulies, the daughter of Joan Thaler, has created the artwork, which will be used for the advertising and programs of the service.

Communication Committee report was given by Eugenia Vavra.

--The word "Secular" is being added to the name of the Secular Humanists of Linn County in our materials.

--We have 27 likes on our FaceBook page; information regarding the page will be included in the next newsletter. The committee is meeting May 19 to discuss the content of the next newsletter. [This date was changed to May 31 because of scheduling conflicts within the committee.]

--The committee will also create a policy, for board approval, regarding sending event announcements and invitations to board members and/or all membership. Following some discussion, it was agreed that a disclaimer should be included with mailings for events not sponsored by the council stating that the mailing does not signify sponsorship or approval of the event by the IRCLC.

OTHER

Class on *Irreligious America: The Rise of the Religiously Unaffiliated* will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, May 15 and 22 at 9:15 a.m. in the church library.

Alan Diehl stated that the City Council meetings begin with prayer and that they appear to always be Christian prayers, usually offered by police or fire chaplains. He asked if this is an issue for the board's action. This will be discussed at a later date.

Aaron Doolin requested a list of people who are willing to bring a message to the residents of Catholic Worker House on Saturdays.

Inspiration for our June meeting will be brought by Brian Daugherty.

Al Fisher moved adjournment and Eugenia Vavra seconded the motion. Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Mitchell, secretary