

Monthly Board Meeting

July 18, 2016

The monthly meeting was held at the Northeast Independent Living Program Center at 20 Ballard Road, Lawrence, MA 01843 and began at 7:16 PM.

Attending: Sean Bardoo, Andrew DeCarlo, Adam Rajczyk, Daniel Rajczyk, Eva Rajczyk, and Thomas Wood

MINUTES

A motion was made by Andrew DeCarlo and seconded by Thomas Wood to accept the minutes of May 15, 2016 as presented to the Board by Eva Rajczyk. The Board unanimously voted to accept.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Previous Balance (as of 06/30 Bank Statement)	\$5,055.61
Deposit	\$ 200.00
Total	\$5,255.61
Disbursements	<u>-\$ 293.07</u>
Total	\$4,962.54

A motion was made by Andrew DeCarlo and seconded by Thomas Wood to accept the treasurer's report as presented to the Board by Adam Rajczyk and file it for audit. The Board unanimously voted to accept.

DINNER OF HOPE MEETING

It was decided that the next meeting will be held on June 30, 2016 (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM) at the Rajczyk home.

MERRIMACK VALLEY ASPIES

MVA is the AWorks-sponsored support group, Its meetings are held the first Saturday of each month. According to Thomas Wood, the attendance is not what he has hoped for.

- The Meet-up page has 33 participants but does not translate to people physically attending meetings
- MVA should be advertised on social media, etc. more vigorously
- The following suggestions were made:
 - Should be more structured
 - Should invite speakers including
 - Local members of government
 - Should let members know about pro-bono legal services

- Should have goals
- Needs to build community involvement
- Sean Bardoo volunteered to help with structure and research

SCORE

Eva Rajczyk reported about her meeting (July 10) with members of SCORE who will be mentoring us.

- They gave her some "homework" to do; and she said that she will share booklets with the rest of the Board and Advisory.
- The next meeting will be on August 2, 2016.

INTERNSHIP / VOLUNTEERS

1. Lisa Rajczyk, our Volunteer Coordinator, was approached by Sahar Alhamdan, an exchange student from Saudi Arabia at UMass Lowell, about internship with AWorks
2. She and Eva Rajczyk met with Sahar on June 26, 2016 and were duly impressed with her credentials and her enthusiasm.
3. She will join our team by the beginning of August; her internship begins in September and ends at the end of the semester in January.

OFFICE SPACE ISSUES

1. Adam Rajczyk recounted our problems with CLASS Inc. despite Senator L'Italien's involvement on our behalf.
2. Adam Rajczyk also reported on a successful meeting with June Sauvagau, ED of NILP. NILP will donate us office space and will also provide some of the necessary furniture: desk, bookcase. We will also have the opportunity to expand in the future for a small rental fee.
3. Also discussed was the issue of transportation (bus service is available from Buckley Transportation Center (downtown Lawrence); special bus service is also available – people can apply for it and pay through Medicaid.

ASPERGER-FRIENDLY BOARD MEETINGS

Tom Wood brought up the fact that it is difficult for the Aspie members of our Board to concentrate when everyone talks at the same time. He suggested, and everyone agreed, that

- It is important to have only one conversation going on at a time, especially since Aspies have audio processing difficulties.
- Cross talk should be limited to the barest minimum.
- Everyone who wants to talk should have a chance to do so.

MOVING FORWARD

Sean Bardoo brought up a number of ideas to help our organization move forward.

- Our PowerPoint presentation needs to be tweaked to include
 - Personal stories, including videos, of our Aspie colleagues
 - Daniel Rajczyk should make it (PP presentation) his own, so that his delivery is smooth and professional (no reliance on the actual slides)
 - Content should be practiced, including role play

BY-LAWS

Eva Rajczyk brought up the issue of the need to revisit our By-laws, since they have not been reviewed at least for the last two years.

- Should add Travel Reimbursement and Resignation/Reinstatement Policies
- May need to change Board composition from "50%" Aspie to "*at least* 30% Aspie." This change may allow us more flexibility while still preserving our primary objective of making sure that Aspies are part of AWorks management

OTHER

Following items were brought up by various members of the organization

- Sean Bardoo mentioned the need for an Advocacy Program, an idea that was first brought up by then-Board member Lisa Rajczyk. This should include
 - Sensitivity Awareness Training for potential employers and fellow employees
 - Information about how due process works including
 - List of pro-bono lawyers
 - Clients orientation
 - Mentor/job coach training
 - Legal guardianship
 - What it is
 - How it works
- Daniel Rajczyk reported that he would be meeting with the CEO of Career Resources

Eva Rajczyk made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Sean Bardoo. The meeting formally adjourned at 9:10 PM.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dinner Committee Meeting—Saturday, July 30, 2016—Rajczyk Residence, Haverhill (10:00 AM–12:00 PM)

AWorks Occupies Office – August 1, 2016 – 20 Ballard Road, Lawrence, MA

AWorks Support Group Meeting – August 6, 2016 – NIPL, 20 Ballard Road, Lawrence (2:00 – 4:00 PM)

Monthly Meeting – Monday, August 15, 2016 – 20 Ballard Road, Lawrence (7:00 PM – 9:00 PM)

GLCAC Community Resource Fair–Wednesday, August 17, 2016, Campagnone Park, Lawrence (1:00–4:00 PM)

MRWC Merrifest 2016 – Saturday, August 27, 2016, 1 Eaton Street, Lawrence (11:00 AM – 3:00 PM)

Bread & Roses Festival, 2016 – Monday, September 5, 2016, Campagnone Park, Lawrence (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

AWorks Meet-'n-Greet – (TBA)

Dinner of Hope – Saturday, October 22, 2016 – Maria's Galleria Banquet Room, 81-83 Essex Street, Haverhill (Cocktails 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM; Dinner 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM)

Minutes respectfully submitted to the Board by,

Eva

M. Eva Rajczyk
Board Secretary