

# Asperger Works

## Monthly Board Meeting

December 19, 2018

The monthly meeting was held at 60 Island Street, Lawrence, MA 01840 and began at 6:45 PM.

Attending: Andrew DeCarlo (via phone), Tom Kulesa (via phone) Rachel McMeen, Karen Merrill, Adam Rajczyk, Daniel Rajczyk, and Eva Rajczyk

### MINUTES

A motion was made by Karen Merrill and seconded by Adam Rajczyk to accept the minutes of November 19, 2018 as presented to the Board by Eva Rajczyk. The Board unanimously voted to accept.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Tabled until January.

### ANDREW DECARLO

- Andrew told us that he read the last meeting's minutes regarding his situation and did not understand what was referred to because the notes were very general.
- We asked him about the September 19 article in the Boston Globe. He agreed that the incident did take place but that he was falsely accused and that the surveillance video from the store has exonerated him. He also indicated that after his arrest everything was very hazy and that he could not recall what occurred.
- He told us that he will be going to court and that he was confident that he will be completely vindicated.
- We agreed to postpone any further action until after his day in court and asked him to notify us of when that will be.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Daniel Rajczyk reported that he will be interviewed by the Autism Network.

### EMPLOYMENT REPORT

- Rachel McMeen reported on her concerns about Kevin Heaton.
  - She has reservations about Kevin's qualifications for office job; there doesn't seem to be any record of him holding down such a position.
  - Although he gets a stipend from Easter Seals, he has not had any job aside from that of a volunteer.

- Kevin seems to misunderstand AWorks' function – believes us to be an employment agency and keeps asking Rachel about potential jobs.
- Rachel also reported about a possible partnership with Dunkin Donuts
  - They are interested in us providing workshops and/or presentations about Autism/Asperger's and Asperger Works
  - Possible employment opportunities
  - They have a relationship with Southern New Hampshire University
    - \$3000 @ year tuition
  - Promotion of AWorks clients
- Karen Merrill reported on her meeting with Mario Marquez and representative from [MassHire Merrimack Valley](#) (formerly Valley Works).
  - Mario was 15 minutes late for his appointment.
  - MassHire has a lot of information including access to what a resume should look like.
  - MassHire also offers various courses for applicants.
- Eva Rajczyk reported on Zach Andrulat progress.
  - Since last month, Zach found another job.
    - He has not yet told his supervisor about his Asperger's, but plans to do so in the near future.
    - He still wants us to be involved with his employment life and wants to meet with our team.

## **BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

- Rachel McMeen discussed Daniel and Eva Rajczyk's concerns about Norm Hildreth. Daniel wrote Norm an email detailing their concerns and asking for clarification. Norm has yet to send a response.
- Daniel Rajczyk reported that we have a new person who would like to be on our Board, Ekaterina Chistiakova, who contacted us through [Volunteermatch](#). She is a graduate student from Russia with very impressive credentials. He will be arranging for a meeting with her and will let us know when and where.

## **#GIVINGTUESDAY**

- Rachel reported that we received \$90 donation through #GivingTuesday, which is very good since we started so late.
- Money from the #GivingTuesday Foundation is difficult to get due to worldwide competition

- Next year we will have to start working on it starting six months ahead, probably right after the Dinner of Hope.
- We need to build a wider social media base
- We need to run videos on Instagram (our Chinese volunteers could help with this)

### **DINNER OF HOPE, 2019**

- Eva Rajczyk contacted Michael Middleton of Maria's Restaurant in Haverhill and reserved the April 13 date.
- Daniel Rajczyk told us that he found a better way to sell our tickets than through Eventbrite and will give us the details later.

### **OTHER**

- Update on Directors and Officers Insurance: Eva Rajczyk will contact our insurance agent about who is in the process of finding a good plan for the least cost and will let her know as soon as he has the right insurance for us.
- The importance of having background checks on all volunteers including new Board members was discussed.
  - Daniel Rajczyk told us that it is not enough to just get the Massachusetts one, which is free. We need to have national background checks, which cost \$75.00 one-time setup fee.
  - Daniel made a motion and Karen Merrill seconded it to sign up for this national verification called, Verify Volunteers. The Board voted unanimously to sign up.
  - Karen said that she will pay for it in January as an in-kind donation to the organization.
- Tom Kulesa reported about his contact with Lesley University regarding possible employment for our clients. He will get more details after the New Year.

Karen Merrill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Adam Rajczyk and was unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting formally adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted to the Board by

*Eva*

M. Eva Rajczyk

Board Secretary