

Asperger Works

Monthly Board Meeting

October 7, 2019

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

Attending: Marion Donahue, Karen Merrill, Adam Rajczyk, Daniel Rajczyk, Eva Rajczyk, Lisa Rajczyk, and Susie Resendes.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Lisa Rajczyk and seconded by Karen Merrill to accept the minutes of September 9, 2019 as presented to the Board by Eva Rajczyk. The Board unanimously voted to accept.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

A motion was made by Karen Merrill and seconded by Marion Donahue to accept the Treasurer's Report for October as presented to the Board by Adam Rajczyk. The Board voted unanimously to accept and file for audit.

PHONE SYSTEM QUOTE

Last month we all agreed to replace our phone system through Verizon with one that is cheaper and more suited to our needs. Adam Rajczyk called Verizon to see if we could cancel our contract with them since the system provided was misrepresented at the time the contract was signed. Although he was told that we can cancel the phone service, the charge for the Internet service will be changed to what we now pay for both (\$114.11 @month). Adam has contacted Comcast about the cost for Internet service through them and is waiting for a response. He said that if we decide to go with Comcast, we will probably have to pay Verizon a termination fee.

UPDATE ON VOLUNTEERS

We have one new volunteer, Evan, who has Asperger's and is a computer whizz. He comes to the office once a week and has done much work already to help us out with various computer/network related issues.

OTHER

- Eva Rajczyk made a motion, which was seconded by Adam Rajczyk, to welcome Susie Resendes to our Board of Directors.
- Karen Merrill told us that she can no longer work with Mario. It does not appear that he is serious about getting a job and there is nothing more that she can do for him.

- Daniel Rajczyk reported that he has been in contact with United Business Machines of New Hampshire regarding leasing a printer for our office. The lease includes all repairs, toners, etc. for a special promotional price of \$119.00 @month. Each Board member present pledged to donate \$10.00 monthly towards the lease. Thus, the organization will have to pay only \$49.00 @month.
- Eva Rajczyk reported on different meeting she has had since the last Board meeting
 - On September 16 she met with Radhika Pillai, who contacted her through Community InRoads. Presently, she is working on a webinar series on housing solutions for individuals with disabilities. Her next project will be on a webinar series on jobs, which she would like us to work on with her. She is also on the Board of Directors for ABLED Advocacy and suggested that Eva get in touch with the organization.
 - On September 20, Adam and Eva Rajczyk met with Jaime Romero & Steve Ovalle of Kimi Nichols Center (<https://kiminicholscenter.org/>). Jaime Romero has a daughter with Asperger's, who is a wonderful artist and who may be able to design some original art work for us as needed. Steve also has a disabled child. He also has connections with various people who he thought might be able to help us with fundraising and possibly job coaching. We had a conversation about whether or not a job applicant should disclose at the time of the interview. Steve pointed out that if a company will not hire an applicant because he/she is an Aspie, then why would the applicant want to work for them anyway. They also pointed out that at this time, it would be better for us to spend our energies on educating employers about Asperger's so that we would have employers willing to hire people with Asperger's.
 - On September 27, Daniel and Eva Rajczyk met with Laurie and Dawn from ABLED Advocacy (<https://www.abledadvocacy.com/>). Since one of our hopes is to educate parents about our organization and how we can help their Aspie children upon graduation, it was felt that we could help each other. The representatives of ABLED and Eva agreed to keep in touch and find ways to help out. Laurie has already reached out to some of the parent in the organization to see how they may be able to aid us.
- The problem of Eric Janowski was brought up. Eric has not attended a meeting since our meeting on June 18, 2018 and has not been in touch with any of us at least for the last six months. Everyone agreed that he needed to be removed from the Board. Eva Rajczyk informed Board members that Daniel Rajczyk had already written Eric a letter. Members of the Board asked Eva to send them a copy prior to mailing so that they could all take a look and see if any changes need to be made.

- Lisa and Daniel Rajczyk brought up the importance of starting to work on the Dinner of Hope ASAP.
 - Eva Rajczyk said that she thought we should invite Congresswoman Lori Trahan to be our keynote speaker. The Board agreed that this would be a good idea. Eva indicated that she will contact the Congresswoman.
 - Eva Rajczyk also suggested that we should give Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old climate and environmental activist with Asperger's the Bryan Noble Award. The Board agreed and Eva will try to get in touch with her through Twitter.
 - Marion Donahue indicated that it would be a good idea to request sponsorship from Pentucket Bank in December this year.
 - Daniel Rajczyk mentioned that we need to get sponsors and advertisers as soon as possible to avoid worrying about it as we near the dinner date of April 18.
 - Eva Rajczyk asked that everyone on the Board supply her with contact information for friends and family so that we can have a larger list of potential guests for our dinner.
 - Karen Merrill informed us that she already has a table full of people coming to the dinner. *Thank you, Karen!*

Daniel Rajczyk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Karen Merrill 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

IMPORTANT DATES

Monthly Meeting December 2, 2019

Dinner of Hope April 18, 2020