

Possible Casino Fundraiser Town Hall

[March 3rd, 2019]

– OUTCOMES & PROGRESS –

Small Print: The “Possible Casino Fundraiser Town Hall” was held at Calgary Unitarians, on March 3rd 2019, in Wickenden Hall, and was hosted by: Mary-Anna Louise Kovar – President, Board of Trustees; Alex Russell – Secretary, Board of Trustees; Sabrina Del Ben – Vice President, Board of Trustees; and Leslie Robinson – Facilitator, Member of the Congregation.

More Small Print: The Town Hall was attended by approximately 50 people and started with a presentation of high-level observations on our draft budget (courtesy of Leslie Buckle our treasurer and of the Finance Committee), our physical plant i.e. building (courtesy of Eric Leavitt the chair of the Physical Plant Committee) and some accessibility-related feedback from our congregational survey (courtesy of our Committee On Shared Ministry). Then there was group discussion at four tables: **1.** fundraising inside the congregation; **2.** fundraising outside the congregation; **3.** a possible casino fundraiser; and **4.** fundraising from the perspective our of volunteers.

Those who took part in group discussion upheld –

Our Agreements

- *Respect* • *Accept Differences* • *Confidentiality* •
- *Listen* • *Include All Voices* • *Timely & Equal Air Time* •
- *Spirit Of Cooperation* • *Curiosity (Ask Not Tell)* •
- *Open-Mindedness* • *Kindness* • *Fun* •
- *Step Up & Step Back* • *“Ouch!” & “Oops!”* •

We Heard You Loud And Clear – **Disciplined Prioritisation**

“If we’re going to embark on a large capital project, e.g. a new roof, or a specific campaign, e.g. sponsoring a refugee family (like in the past) then we should focus on one thing at a time, then it might seem more manageable” (sic.)

- *what **were** you thinking?* • *what **did** you mean?* •

If you wrote, or know who wrote, any of the suggestions below, please contact me Alex Russell – Secretary, Board of Trustees secretary@calgaryunitarians.ca with more details, as I’d like to understand more about your suggestion:

“Attitude change! Attitude of scarcity vs. abundance”

“Open mic” and “Coffee café”

“The ‘Banksy’ option (attract people)”

What Can I Do About – **Growing our community**

- *everybody bring a friend!* •

There were several suggestions around growing our community: on the communications front, we could video some testimonials from members of our congregation and put them on the website.

:

I don't expect anyone is ashamed of attending our (literal or figurative) church but we would need some extroverted members from the congregation to volunteer to go on film and we could probably benefit from some professional guidance and assistance too – preferably pro bono from within our community.

:

Either way, we could use technology to better-connect with a wider perhaps less accessible audience, generate interest in our community, and grow our numbers.

:

While our Tech Team **tech@calgaryunitarians.ca** operates our audio visual equipment they would need volunteers to be providing material and content.

Communications & Public Relations

We have a paid position for communications, **BUT** the hours are *very* short. If we want to grow our community we *must* communicate and volunteer more effectively within our congregation and we *must* spend more (time and money) communicating outside our congregation.

Press Releases • Community Newsletters • Advertising

In order for Calgary Unitarians to grow and thrive, we need to attract young families (**we do, and we are**) and the Director of Religious Education dre@calgaryunitarians.ca and CYRE committee are making efforts to reach out with Youth program and OWL (Our Whole Lives). It's generally believed that Social Media is more effective for young families.

The Intention Of The Sign-up Sheets

is to match ideas with people / committees and determine whether:

- a. an idea fits naturally within an existing committee
- b. an idea suggests we expand the scope of an existing committee
- c. an idea suggests we create a new committee / role or re-establish an old one

suggestion	committee —or— coordinator	volunteers (print <u>your</u> name)
– please do not write anything here –		

Thank you for your support, continued, or commenced,

Alex Russell – Secretary of the Board of Trustees (2019/Mar/23rd)

Table#1: Inside The Congregation

suggestion	committee —or— coordinator	volunteers (print <u>your</u> name)
Endowment dinners The Finance Committee can sponsor this event but they will need volunteer help	Finance Committee treasurer@calgaryunitarians.ca	
Increase pledges by 3% This has been asked for, and needs to increase by inflation (2-3%) each year otherwise our pledges are worth less each year	Stewardship committee pledge@calgaryunitarians.ca	N/A
Increase price of events by 3% over the previous year	All Event Organizers Does this go against “pay what you can” or when people are paying the advertised price amount or are we ‘leaving money on the table’?	N/A
More renters + advertising We need to advertise our space [better] and get more renters. We could use our space for events and put catering facilities to better use	Board of Trustees ppc@calgaryunitarians.ca office@calgaryunitarians.ca Do we track our non-booked time as opposed to only our bookings?	
Expand to Safeway gift cards Consider other food stores. Take a look at Fundscrip for more retailers	Co-op gift card committee coopcards@calgaryunitarians.ca fundscrip.com	

Any other suggestions? (not suggested during the town hall)

--	--	--

Any more comments?

Table#2: Outside The Congregation

suggestion	committee —or— coordinator	volunteers (print <u>your</u> name)
Press Releases / Advertising		
Healthy Kids Programs spud.ca (veg home delivery) pays 10-25% referral, also 10% by gift card. Fall garden sale: flowers/veg	Directory of Religious Ed. Use money to invest in RE (Child)	
Calgary Foundation Grant <u>Deadline:</u> one cycle per year Feb-8th, followed by Feb-15 th	Finance Committee finance@calgaryunitarians.ca calgaryfoundation.org/grantsawards-loans/types-of-grants/community-grants	
CFEP Grant (Community Facility Enhancement Program) <u>Deadlines:</u> 3 cycles per year Jan-15th, May-15th, and Sep-15th Note: Grants are matched funding	Finance Committee finance@calgaryunitarians.ca alberta.ca/community-facility-enhancement-program.aspx Project must complete within 18 months of receiving funds	
West Trust + Community Spirit Holly Noelle had success with West Trust last year. She or the board would be happy to share this success with you for other ideas	Finance Committee finance@calgaryunitarians.ca cuc.ca/west-trust-grants	
Co-op Community Spaces	alex@itfromblighty.ca This program is not available to religious groups even when serving the community	<div style="font-size: 48px; font-weight: bold; opacity: 0.5;">N/A</div>
Community Newsletters / Ads	Communications Committee	

Any other suggestions? (not suggested during the town hall)

--

Any more comments?

We're NOT taking names of volunteers for a casino fundraiser at this time.

At our next Town Hall (Mar-31st) we're looking at our Physical Plant (i.e. Building).

Table#3: Possible Casino Fundraiser

suggestion	committee —or— coordinator	volunteers (print <u>your</u> name)
Ethical and moral issues We must consider living our values.	Social Justice Committee sjc@calgaryunitarians.ca	N/A
Ethical and moral issues If we say “no” to a casino fundraiser on ethical/moral grounds, perhaps we should decline sources of revenue such as Community Spirit Trust as this is funded with lottery money		N/A
Establish 90% approval rating Would members be more inclined to support a casino fundraiser this way?	Board Of Trustees board@calgaryunitarians	N/A
Pay for large capital project For example: new roof, furnace, or elevator in particular with respect to accessibility issues in COSM survey	Physical Plant Committee physicalplant@calgaryunitarians.ca	Re. Physical Plant Town Hall Mar-31st
Time is the one thing some people only have to give A casino fundraiser is one way they could support the congregation		
Donate 50% to addict charity Would members be more inclined to support a casino fundraiser this way?	Board Of Trustees board@calgaryunitarians	N/A

Any more comments? (please, no comments on being For or Against)

If you wrote, or know who wrote, the comment below, please contact me Alex Russell – Secretary, Board of Trustees secretary@calgaryunitarians.ca with more details, as I'd like to understand more about your comment:

“One-on-one invitation”

Table#4: “Me-First”

suggestion	committee —or— coordinator	volunteers (print <u>your</u> name)
<p>Committee Fair <i>What</i> committees do we have and <i>Why</i> do they exist? <i>When</i> and <i>Where</i> do they meet? <i>Who</i> do I contact and <i>How</i> do I contact them?</p>	<p>Council of Committees vp@calgaryunitarians.ca Sabrina Del Ben –Vice President, Board of Trustees. A representative of each committee to print your name on the right here for Sun Apr-7th</p>	
<p>Volunteer recognition event The Board can arrange this event but they will always need volunteer help</p>	<p>The Board of Trustees board@calgaryunitarians.ca</p>	
<p>Volunteer testimonials We should ask for volunteer testimonials – people who feel rewarded by volunteering</p>	<p>Nominating Committee nominations@calgaryunitarians.ca We really a new role to be defined here as “Volunteer Coordinator”</p>	
<p>Committees: clear expectations Committee must be able to describe how responsibility is shared between members, how much energy and time is needed to complete duties</p>	<p>Council of Committees vp@calgaryunitarians.ca A representative (or volunteer to help them) of each committee to print your name on the right here</p>	

Any other suggestions? (not suggested during the town hall)

| |

Any more comments?
