

Michigan Council, HI-USA  
Board Meeting, Bill Evans' Law Offices  
April 10, 2007  
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER -- 6:57 pm

ATTENDANCE -- Present: Deb Bell, Norwood Catron, John Prusak, Srini Racha, Martha Spear, Sue Trudeau. Mike Willihnganz. Absent: Sally Janacek, Joan Smykowski. Guest: Bill Evans

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Sue Trudeau. Sue asked for informal input on several Paddle to the Symphony items: namely, menu and t-shirt slogans – see also Old Business below. She also shared a nice story about accepting cultural differences.

SPECIAL REPORT -- Bill Evans. Rick Ax of Berridge & Morrison Realtors has offered his services as our realtor. Bill presented his proposed listing agreement -- salient details include: 6 month contract; sale price of \$200,000; realtor (Rick) would earn a commission on any sale within those six months, whether or not he "finds" the buyer. The Board has three choices: we can refuse this agreement, modify it, or accept it, as is. Deb moved, Mike seconded, that we hold this listing agreement in abeyance and, instead, that we approach two parties – the new owner of Ron Meyers' building and, then, the City of Berkley -- to see if they are interested in purchasing the HI-MI building. Discussion ensued. It was noted that since there are currently two viable buyers we may not need a realtor's services. Other comments: accepting this agreement will mean tying up the property for over an year; we need to move quickly to stop the hemorrhaging of costs, to prevent possible liability or damage, and, in a simple effort to move on in our new, digital, direction; after more than a year, we've entertained no credible offers; the building has little real market value, but the land may have worth as additional parking for nearby businesses. After much discussion, the motion passed unanimously. **Bill Evans will approach the new owner of Ron Meyers' building first and then the City of Berkley, to see if either party is interested in purchasing the HI-MI building. He will also relay the results of the Board vote to Rix Ax.**

Bill is meeting next week with the Wayne State University law school clinic which provides pro bono legal work for not-for-profit organizations. Clinic might do the legal work for us -- market analysis, legal agreements, etc. – for a Michigan hostel. Bill is watching closely the hostel development in Texas, where they are considering a program-oriented hostel, similar to the model he's proposing here in Michigan. **Email questions to Bill at eprpcwne@aol.com**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Martha Spear; April 10, 2007 minutes were presented. Deb moved, Martha seconded, that the minutes be approved as submitted. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT -- Srini Racha; "How to spend our money" -- **he will send us a copy of a powerpoint he has created on this topic.** He proposes that we sponsor two major events (spend \$5,000-10,000) each year, geared towards young people and in tandem with a major corporation (e.g., Ford Motor Co.) A big-deal event would bring in major contributors, further our mission-based programming, and raise awareness of our group (long-term viability). We agreed that, as a Board, we need to decide how much money to invest, how much to save, (based upon financial forecasts) and how much to put towards these events. After discussion, **we decided to focus on a program based at the Chicago hostel; from there, we were all encouraged "to dream" and to bring our ideas to the June board meeting.**

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR REPORT – Sue Trudeau for Joan Smykowski *in absentia*.

HI-MI received the Training Institute Grant; Norwood will attend along with a Girl Scout Leader ☺

Joan has been busy building ties with Wayne State University (WSU). The WSU meal program with international students might be great opportunity for HI-MI – a chance to talk with and meet foreign exchange students. Stay tuned. HI-MI will be doing Community Walls as part of The Ralph Bunche Program at the Peace & Social Justice Institute.

Joan has also been working on our 2nd Grant opportunity, the Council Program Grant. Details, thus far: we would hire a VISTA person (has own benefits) for one year at a cost to us of \$4000 and receive a matching \$4000 from the Girl Scouts to total \$8000 to deliver ODOM programs, especially, but not exclusively, to urban students with the goal of exposing them to different cultures (tentatively entitled "Youth on the Go.")

Lastly, Joan has been contacting public libraries as possible venues for WT101 programs. We acknowledged Joan for her extraordinary efforts under trying circumstances of late.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Governance -- National Pool Compliance status update – HI-MI remains in full compliance; **Sue will email the password to us so that we may review.**

ODOM -- see Volunteer Coordinator Report above.

Finance -- see Treasurer's Report above.

Marketing – Deb Bell; committee met recently. Sudha (Srini's wife) had ideas for our web site. Gail is also interested in presenting. New brochure will await final look of the HI-MI web site.

## NEW BUSINESS

Picture of Board Members for HI-MI web site postponed until June meeting.

The Birmingham Unitarian Universalist Church (Lone Pine and Woodward) has identified HI-MI as one of their “pass the collection plate” charities for the month of May (thanks to Deb's efforts!) We need someone to sit at coffee hour & man the HI-MI board on two Sundays: May 20 and May 27 -- 10:30 -11:15 am; **reply to Deb at [debbell960@yahoo.com](mailto:debbell960@yahoo.com) if you can help out!**

## OLD BUSINESS

Paddle to the Symphony update -- ticket prices have been set at \$29 for adults (to include a \$24 coupon from Heavener Canoe Rentals) and \$15 for children between the ages of 7 and 12 (under 7 not admitted). We will sell t-shirts with HI-MI “slogan” as well as Heavener Canoes and Oakland Parks logos. We will offer a 50/50 raffle (half of the dollars collected will go to HI-MI.) We need volunteers – especially strong ones (to help load and unload canoes.) The more volunteers we recruit, the fewer workers Al will need to hire, thereby increasing our profit margin. It was noted that volunteers are expected to pay full admission; however, we are hoping to offer free t-shirts. **If you can help, email Sue Trudeau at [strud30484@aol.com](mailto:strud30484@aol.com)**

Request for LCD projector and computers have been approved, ordered, and are on their way.

Ethnic dinners – what is the status of this activity? Chuck Worney may take over from Mike Willinhanz.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 21 at Srini's condo clubhouse. Directions and details to follow.

ADJOURNMENT – Mike moved, Deb seconded; we are adjourned at 8:40 pm Respectfully submitted, Martha Spear, Secretary