

Hostelling International USA
Michigan Council
Board Meeting January 5, 2009 Minutes
6:52-9:30 pm

Board Members Present: Carol Galle, Sally Janecek, Markques McKnight, Evan Major, Susan Trudeau and Michael Willihnganz

Board Members Absent: Mollika Basu and Amanda Trathen

Visitor: Joan S. Smykowski, Volunteer Coordinator

I. Opening Statements and Introductions-Susan Trudeau, President

- A. Susan shared her decision to set down as president
- B. Janel Yamashiro stepped down due to work and school time conflicts
- C. Amanda Trathen will not be able to attend this meeting
- D. Mollika Basu did not respond to email sent by Sue

II. Reports

A. Minutes from the last meeting

Correction by Susan Trudeau regarding that the \$100 was given by her in memory of Norwood Catron. The \$100 was not given by Norwood Catron.

B. Treasurer's Report

Matt Ripper was not present. He emailed his report to the board prior to the meeting.

After much discussion about the Treasurer's report, Sally Janecek moved that the report was incomplete and would not be accepted. The report was missing the October, November, December 2008 and January 2009 transitions. The board has requested that the December 2008 report be corrected and submitted at the next meeting.

Additional discussion was held about restructuring the treasurer's position and responsibilities.

C. Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Joan S. Smykowski shared that December was spent making arrangements for the upcoming year. Travel presentations were planned until May 2009.

Two new Travel Presenters were trained: Janice Freij and Mollika Basu.

Connecting with the Girl Scouts continues to be a challenge.

Evan Major suggested working with the Student Conservation Association.

Sharif AliDinar's position, as the Campus Outreach Coordinator, was discussed

Joan will be in Arizona January 10-20, 2009. She will have limited access to the internet and will take the council phone.

Additional discussion was held about restructuring the Volunteer Coordinator's position and responsibilities.

III. Old Business and New Business

A. Election of a new president

Sue shared her concerns about the council.

A lively discussion, which all the board members participated in, touched upon the following items (though not recorded in the correct order of the discussion):

- Incorporate the Rocky Mountain model into the Michigan council.
- HI-USA is no longer a membership organization. National focus on endowment. The national organization is at a crossroads.
- The board might consider being a virtual board using phone conferencing and the internet.
- The importance of participating in the 75th Anniversary activities, but in a realistic manner. Incorporate the anniversary activities into existing activities.
- The importance of the organization being stable.
- The different options for staffing: full-time executive director position, part-time executive director position, rethinking existing job responsibilities of the Volunteer Coordinator.
- Identify an individual to be a president pro-tem, during the restructuring to help mentor the next official president.
- Thinking in terms of a 6-8 month plan during the Michigan Council transition.
- Markques McKnight, and it was suggested that Amanda Trathen, assist with financial plans, reports and training for an undisclosed period of time.
- Sally Janecek shared her idea of being the President Pro Tem, for 6-8 months, until her future plans change
- Joan Smykowski and Carol Galle to function in other capacities during the transition. Joan would focus on day-to-day operations. Carol would focus on 75th Anniversary activities.

The following items were moved:

1. Carol Galle moved that Sally Janecek be the President Pro Tem, for as long as possible. Sally would immediately be the President Pro Tem.
Seconded by: ?
Vote: All approved

2. ? moved that Joan Smykowski's contract be changed to increase her hours from 20 hours/week to 30 hours/week, with an increase in pay to reflect the change, with an additional \$800/month through September 30, 2009. Joan will assist will identifying a new board president. Joan's contract will reflect the changes.
Seconded by: Mike Willihnganz
Vote: All approved

B. 75th Anniversary Celebration for Michigan Council

Once again, the board participated in a lively conversation about the 75th Anniversary Celebration. The following items were brought up (though not recorded in the correct order of the discussion):

- Creating an additional website for the anniversary.
- Utilizing Carol Galle's professional experience and her company's staff to oversee the anniversary activities.
- Volunteers would be recruited and utilized to execute the Anniversary activities.
- Carol Galle would have to step down as a board member if she was being paid.
- Carol was asked to share her hourly amount for nonprofits: \$75/hour
- Carol agreed to volunteer for the first 4 hours in which she will prepare a document for all members to review. The document will ask recipients to prioritize the anniversary activity ideas generated at the Council's December 2008 Holiday Celebration at Marygrove College.
- At the next meeting the board will have to decide on which activities to pursue.

C. Markques McKnight led the discussion about the future of the Council's finances. The board will have to make the following decisions regarding the money from the sale of the building. Additional items brought up were (though not in the correct order of the discussion):

- How much money should be put aside?
- How much should be put in a Money Market? Stock? Mutual fund?
- The board will have to determine the risk tolerance
- How much should be budgeted for the 75th Anniversary? Joan's salary?
- The items mentioned above should be explored at the board retreat on Sunday, February 8, 2009.
- No discussions should be held on investment options at the retreat.

Markques agreed to summarize the investment questions,

- Send out the questions via email,
- Meet with Matt and Sally (and possibly Amanda) for ideas

IV. New Business

Evan Major agreed to put the board members on a list serve.

Sally Janecek introduced a resolution to thank Susan Trudeau for her time and efforts as the board president. "Sue kept us alive and well. She is a 'Super Volunteer.' She will be missed."

Second and Approved By All President

V. Next Meeting

The next board meeting will be a retreat on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2009.
DUE TO THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD OF THE MICHIGAN COUNCIL,
ALL BOARD MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

The location will be announced at a later date.