

Hostelling International-Michigan Council: Meeting Minutes, February 24, 2010

Meeting convened: 6:30 p.m. at the law offices of Evans and Pletkovic

Board Members in Attendance: Michael Dwyer, Michael Willihnganz, Mollika Basu Biernat, Jay Biernat, Melissa Smith (on phone)

Board Members Not in Attendance: Nate Hill, Gwen Bowlby, Janel Yamashiro

Other Members in Attendance: Wendy Willinhganz, Joan Smykowski, Blaine Franz (from the National Office), Al Heavner (Emeritus)

Introductions

Mission of Hostelling International:

- Introduced by Blaine Franz to new board members
- Our local board implementing programs, possibly researching a new hostel in Michigan
- A member of the Rocky Mountain Council paraphrased the mission as “Creating or welcoming hostellers”

Board Members whose terms have expired:

- Mike Willihnganz - current member
- Carole Galle - will not renew term
- Marques McKnight - will not renew term

HI-Michigan By-law discussion

- Interims must be appointed by current board members until the Annual Meeting of the Council
- Mollika is the only elected officer; Mike W’s term has expired
- Michigan non-profit law states that there must be three executive officers and three directors. Directors can be the same as the executive officers.
- HI-USA abides by the Better Business Bureau guidelines, which states that we must have at least 5 board members.
- Per Blaine, we have a 6 month grace period to get into compliance to receive our second payment from the funding pool (\$3500)
- We will ensure that all officers will be current members of HI-USA
- Per HI-MI bylaws current board members Mike W. and Mollika appointed the following positions:
 - o Michael Willihnganz - Interim President
 - o Michael Dwyer - Interim Vice-President
 - o Mollika Basu Biernat -Treasurer
 - o Jay Biernat - Interim Secretary
 - o Melissa Smith - Interim Board Member
 - o Gwen Bowlby - Interim Board Member
 - o Janel Yamashiro - Interim Board Member
 - o Nate Hill - Interim Board Member

President Calls Meeting, 7:16 p.m.

Treasurer's Report:

- Mollika reported on year to date profit: \$34,287 due to a \$50,000 donation
- Treasurer will construct a budget for the next fiscal year
- Sources of Income:
 - o Blaine was asked if we could get the list of members in Michigan for fundraising purposes
 - o Council used to sell items to fundraise
 - o Council no longer receives income from selling memberships

Volunteer Coordinator Report:

- Joan Smykowski delivered report presentations, social media, Meet-Up groups, Girl Scouts
- Council was interested improving the ratio of presentations versus attendance at presentations
- 140 touches are needed to obtain grant funding from HI-USA's pool - \$7,000 for this fiscal year; we have over 340 touches to date

Campus Coordinator Report:

- Initial Campus coordinator had to quit due to family circumstances
- Joan is in talks with John DeGraff from Calvin College

Future Council Activities Discussion:

- Each board member was asked to discuss future activities of the council to keep in line with the mission
 - o There is interest in exploring building a hostel in Michigan
 - There is \$1400 set aside for this in the Lucille Hoffmann-Heavener fund
 - o Increasing numbers of bikes, hikes, and canoe trips
 - Currently we charge to cover HI-USA insurance costs
 - Each event, based on level of risk, has a different cost
 - Blaine will provide council with a schedule of costs
 - o Offering group travel opportunities
- We want to be financially sustainable - create a budget where we break even based on our income
- Social Networking
 - Michael Dwyer will work with Joan to post all bikes and hikes on all of our Social Networking sites
- Campaign for Hostelling
 - HI-USA has a \$3 million goal
 - Blaine will provide council with addresses (e-mail as well) to contact members in a future fundraising campaign; will be a topic at the annual meeting
- Blaine suggested minimizing administration by dissolving the board as a legal entity in Michigan
- Annual Council Meeting
 - Nominations and bios will be posted online
 - Al Heavner suggested the Proud Lake Facility, Mollika will follow up

- May 2010
- Make it a celebration of the history of the council and a reason for people to “come back to HI-MI”
- The board will get the council in compliance with our bylaws

Meeting Adjourned: 9:45 p.m.

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Jay Biernat, Secretary.