

**Michigan Council, HI-USA**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, August 9, 2007**  
**Srini's home,**  
**MINUTES**

**Present: Deb Bell, Norwood Catron, Srini Racha, Sue Trudeau, Mike Willihnganz;**  
**Guest:Joan Smykowski Absent: Sally Janacek, John Prusak, Martha Spear**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Minutes were approved with the following change: to add Ann Leen's name

Treasurer's Report: Srini stated that our amount in checking remains fairly stable again this month. He noted that we have \$31,468 in the checking account, which is not making interest for us. He recommended transferring \$10,000 to either savings or an investment. The reserve should be available to meet immediate needs for liquidity. After some discussion on the possible cost to us of demolition of the building, it was felt this amount in checking would be sufficient. Srini moved and Deb seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Sue also noted that a CD has recently expired and asked Srini to look into options for re-investing that money and the checking account cash and to report to the Board.

**Committee Reports:**

Marketing Committee: Deb handed out a proposal from Gayle Walters our webmaster to proceed with her developing a new website design using National's template and what the costs might be, which she estimated to be \$750-\$1000 for redesign. She noted that a Board member could take over the monthly maintenance at some point or we could continue with her.

Discussion included the alternatives of finding someone to do the site for less money or free or could we learn to do it ourselves (Joan, Sue and Norwood expressed interest). Srini offered to have his wife look it over again with the thoughts of her taking it over. It was noted that time is of the essence with the busy fall season rapidly approaching and the website serving as our "office" and our first look to outsiders interested in the Council.

It was decided to table a vote on Gayle's proposal until **Norwood asks a friend who does the SOLAR C lub site whether he would be interested in doing ours.** If that doesn't materialize in the next week or so, Sue and Joan will discuss with Gayle her proposal.

Sue noted that a scaled up campaign for the Postage Stamp for HI has been sent out to Councils. This is a great marketing opportunity for the councils as well as time to work to get signatures and exposure to the idea in the next 5 months. Joan noted that with the many varied opportunities to promote the stamp, we should spend some time developing a focus to our efforts this fall. **Sue will send the Board the email from National on the postage stamp campaign.**

ODOM Committee: Sue gave the report for Martha. Many great workshops are planned for fall and we seem to be set to making our minimum requirements. Norwood said the training he took on the various programs was very helpful.

Finance/Organization Committee: Sue reported that they need to start working on the Finance Policies and work will resume on that in September.

## Volunteer Coordinator's Report

1. Congrats to Sue on a very successful Paddle event. It was the best!
2. The grant from National for Girl Scout programming was awarded as \$3000 instead of the \$4000 requested. This was due to the large number of applicants and National spreading the funds out to more Councils. So a modification of the application goals needed to be made to fit \$3000
  - a. We will help sponsor a group from Metro Detroit GS Council to travel to the Toronto hostel next July.
  - b. We will assist with a Community Walls program for a group out of the Metro Detroit Council

Joan also offered for the Council to assist with International Thinking Day again next year.

3. The Ralph Bunche Summer Institute. Though it had some rough spots for our first year, due to a flaky coordinator on their end and a lack of volunteers on our end, it was a very successful effort--doing a Community Walls program one evening during the high schoolers overnight. Joan got the assistance of some of the Detroit School teachers, who did a great job, and she was told it was one of the high points of the week. She said the sharing of their cultures through the paintings after the artwork was done was a real growth experience for the students, and is precisely what our mission is about.
4. Joan is trying to get the WSU Hostel Club going. Bob Holley will serve as club advisor to the group. Joan is going to attend Student Organization Day Setp 12 to try to recruit members/officers.
5. The day hikes. Memberships are expiring and some members are still paying the member rate as well as some expecting to continue getting the Beacon. Sue and Lisa Giesecke both are becoming more stringent in this requirement now. Go, girls!

## **Old Business**

### Building Sale and Hostel Development Update--Deb

The building went on the market effective July 28, 2007 for 3 months with Berridge and Morrison. If it doesn't sell during that time, we will attempt to find an investor to buy it for a tax write off and donate it to the City, who could demolish it and use for parking. Mr Evans, the lawyer overseeing the disposal of the property has told the City inspector, who issued the Citation on the building repairs, that we will plan to have this wrapped up by end of year.

The hostel development involves Bill, Sally and Deb writing an application for assistance from the WSU Law School class for doing the incorporation papers and by-laws to start a new nonprofit organization to own and run the hostel. It is due Aug 22 and would be completed during the fall semester, if we are selected amid heavy competition. The plan and budget being submitted shows Year 1 involved in site selection, hiring an architect and starting drawings and fundraising, Year 2 being mostly construction and getting the hostel open, and Year 3 being open for operation!

### Presidents' Report

Sue passed around a spreadsheet showing the finances of the Paddle Event. If all gets settled with Alan as expected, it looks that the Council will make just over \$2000 on the event, a record! Again, Sue is to be congratulated for a well organized and fun event that has increased our visibility to the public.

Sue noted that the Bentley Historical Library, who took our archived files would like to continue getting future minutes, newsletters and other documents that record the Councils

activities. Joan suggested we put them on the mailing list to receive the Beacon, and minutes and other documents can be sent periodically. **We need to have someone in charge of continuing to get our materials to the Bentley Library.**

She noted that we review and make sure we are current with the Strategic Plan at the September meeting.

## **New Business**

### Plans for Fall--Sue

Board Member recruitment-per our Strategic Plan, Sue is starting to recruit for additional Board members. She has several candidates to interview that were obtained from the internet sites we have posted. **Please continue to think of good strategic thinkers or people with good community contacts for the Board and for the upcoming hostel.** Our by-laws call for 7-11 members. Currently we have 8. However, Deb is resigning, Sue and Mike's terms end this fiscal year, and Srini and Norwood will be on the ballot for election by the membership as they were elected by the Board midyear.

After discussion about holding a "Hostelers Then and Now Day" at Proud Lake, Norwood moved and Mike seconded that we hold the event. Motion Passed. It will be Saturday September 29 and might include canoeing, hiking in addition to stories in a "chataqua" style, and possibly could be an overnight affair.

### National Board info

Next Regional Meeting will be Sept 29 in Minneapolis. The National Meeting will be second week of November in Washington DC and will again involved speaking to Congress members about HI and the Postage Stamp campaign. Sue urged Board members to go. The budget allows for two, a delegate and either Joan or another Board member as alternate, for each meeting.

The question has been raised about a Holiday Party for this year. Keeping with past tradition would put it on December 8. Mike asked if it could be midweek, which many were in favor of. **A date for the holiday party needs to be set,** for the next Beacon.

Survey handed out a survey to all Board members. **Survey is requested to be completed and returned to her as soon as possible as she needs to report.**

**Next Board meetings: Monday, September 10, 2007, 6:30 p.m. at John Prusak's house? or the Novi Library**

**Tuesday, October 9, 6:30 p.m. Location to be selected**

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Bell ,Acting Secretary.