

Hostelling International, Michigan Chapter

September 10, 2007

Martha Spear's house

MINUTES

Present: Joan Smykowski, Martha Spear, Sue Trudeau; Guest: Matt Ripper

Absent: Norwood Catron, Sally Janecek, John Prusak, Srini Racha, Mike Willihnganz

Welcome to Matt Ripper! He's an avid traveler and has worked with young people for many years. He has good social networks, as well. Matt is thinking of coming on to the Board.

Call to Order at 7:00 pm

Without a quorum, we had a discussion about general issues. Business items requiring Board approval will follow by email.

HI-MI Web Site Discussion --We discussed the Web site question. We agreed about the importance of marketing and the power of an interactive web presence. Further, after the initial set-up, we want a Web site that will be easy to maintain and update. The consensus of this small group was that Rebecca Sweeten of *Out of Sight Designs* presented the most appealing plan. Sue will email Board members for a final vote on this issue. What about content? Joan will oversee all information posted on the Site.

Treasurer's Report, Committee Reports postponed until October.

Volunteer Coordinator Report – Joan Smykowski

Joan has been very busy; Girl Scout programs are taking the vast majority of her time. 3 big projects upcoming:

- A) Community Sense, Camp Innisfree
- B) GS Go Hostelling, Madonna (patch or charm)
- C) Community Walls, Clifford School, SE Detroit

She is still interested in hiring a ½ time person at \$10.00/hour to help take the burden. She will seek Board approval at up-coming meeting.

World Travel 101 trainings set for Wed., Oct. 3, Plymouth Public Library and Thurs., Nov 8, Royal Oak Public Library.

HI-MI has received some interesting mail recently. Bill Stevens of WWJ Radio is seeking someone to interview about Hostelling International. Sue Trudeau has graciously agreed to be interviewed. Joan will take Sue's name & story and forward to the proper contacts.

David Moore, of International Students at Wayne State University has asked us to host an international student coffee hour on October 31; 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Newman Center, WSU. HI-MI will need to provide food and beverages for 50 college students. Sue and Joan will spearhead this – we agreed that it will be a great opportunity to introduce the uniquely American holiday of Halloween.

The WSU International Students and Scholars Program is looking for holiday homes. If you're willing to host a student for the holidays (of your choice) contact Joan.

WSU sociology students will be running a Community Walls, Fall 2008.

Joan was contacted recently by a woman whose combination train station and hostel design won a Regional Transportation Award. She might be a prospective Board member. Sue will contact her.

New Business

Board member updates and needs –Sue is meeting with a prospective Board member tomorrow. We need to “grow” our Board!

National Conference information and volunteer needed – Is anyone interested in joining Sue at the upcoming HI-USA Conference, Nov 9-11, in Washington, DC.? It should be a lot of fun and a great introduction to hostelling. Trip costs would be covered by HI-MI and we have budgeted for two persons. Contact Sue, if interested.

Our Annual Board retreat is in the planning stages. Possible dates are: December 1 (07) January 5 (08) or January 12, 2008. Hold those dates!

Ideas for the annual Donation letter – Joan suggested that we add a quote from the Director of the Peace & Conflict Office at Wayne State University. In addition, we were encouraged to write-in personal messages, where appropriate. Joan will look to get the letters out mid-November. This year’s mailing will be smaller and more focused.

HI-MI Holiday Party is slated for Friday, December 7 – see our Web site for details. It will be a great opportunity to meet new fellow travelers and to honor old ones!

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 9, 6:30 – 8:30 pm; location TBA.

Adjournment at 8:43 pm

Respectfully submitted, Martha Spear, Secretary