

**RPIRG MINUTES**  
**Dec.2/ 09. Fishbowl, Archer Library**

**ATTENDANCE:** Vicki, Charlotte, Ali, Ashley, Brendan, Kaylene, Mike

3. Approval of November 18 minutes

4. Committee Updates

**BIRT-** non-board members can join committees, though they will not attend board meetings.

4.1 Marketing and events

- **Pancake Breakfast.** All board members, and any other volunteers are being encouraged to come out and serve pancakes on Wednesday Jan.13/09 from 8-10:30 on behalf of URSU.

- Make posters regarding the pancake breakfast. Look into rabbit pancake heads online.

- **Bookmarking.** Marketing committee wants to have a guerrilla bookmarking spree in January. RPIRG bookmarks will be stealthily inserted into books in bookstore and book sale...perhaps even libraries? This would be a good way to get volunteers involved and get the RPIRG message out there.

- **Newsletter launch.** High Tea at the Riddell centre. Provide a table that will draw people to us so we can communicate what RPIRG does. Additionally we would have a formal launch at 4:30ish.

Independent media theme, partner with Briarpatch. Documentary or something etc.

- Questions regarding signing authority. Needs to be looked into further

4.2 Library

- Kayleen started organizing. Divide it into broad types of sections. Making requests that people sign out their books in the future. A few books and DVDs are MIA.

- Mark library books on the spine

- Brendan raises point to discuss why we have a library. This discussion needs to happen at some point. Charlotte will ask ex-board to explain why they started it. What about U of R Library?

- Library budget is currently \$1,000.

- Request to move the library issue to a policy meeting.

- Vicki: Anarchist library in the Briarpatch. Look into the possibility of amalgamating the two libraries.

4.3 **Advisory Committee** aka FCAC

- Alix was not at the meeting, which meant there was no board representation.

- AC suggested that we have a board member at all meetings.

- They had some really great ideas:

- Charlotte...some have experiences with PIRGS others have not, good perspective. Lots of positive input to increase productivity in working groups.

- Ex. Books through Bars: different places donating books

- Grad students will want to research us in the future, so it's important that we keep detailed records. Using evaluations to do better.

- Do amalgamations with other university groups to bring in speakers.

- The next meeting will be in February, though no date has been set yet.

4.4 **Newsletter**

- We agree that the newsletter is ready to go and will be distributed this Friday (or next Tuesday).

- Shiplack to send Vicki the Free Knowledge Day mailing list.

#### 4.5 Working Group

- Tried to set-up meetings. Want to set-up bank accounts for our working groups. Need to find a bank that would set-up an umbrella style of account. Need to find a bank that will offer that service.

- We agree that we want to set up this service, if we can find this structure.

**BIRT:** We will open bank accounts for our working groups that will be moderated by RPIRG.

- Working groups need to submit a budget and a page summary about their activities. Protocol is that they have to submit every semester.

**POLICY ISSUE:** *Vicki suggests changes to 3 semester funding. Groups would not get funding in spring/summer semester.*

#### 4.6 Website

- Urban Roots. Invoices are still coming. We paid them for Dec.1/09.

- Issues with GoDaddy. Are they in line with our ideals? Is it ethical?

To do: Ali, look into another host

- Brennan "How will this affect our Girls of RPIRG calendar?"

#### 4.7 Finance

Ali expressed a concern about how RPIRG is spending money. He wants us to be more efficient with our financing. Review our budget

- Issues with lawyer and fees.

- Need to address our structure before going public.

- Issue: should we be fundraising?

- Charlotte: we should look over RPIRG budget before coming to conclusions about how are funds are being spent.

#### 5. Events

5.1 Social time together: Christmas party for working groups

Where? Bushwakker. Germany Club. Second Floor Bodega. 2nd flr Broken Rack. BP's East.

DATE: December 9th @ 3:30.

#### 6. Turnover

6.1 Deal with Vicki's letter and request.

- Vicki has accepted a position with SCIC for Jan. 1. She can also remain with RPIRG and work 10 hours per week. Vicki's contract is also over on Dec.31st.

- Charlotte is opposed to scaling back on the hours.

- An option is to hire a third person. It is doable we have enough computers. Office space is maxed out.

- Board needs to develop a plan for staffing for 2010. Staff is asking the board to have a decision Dec.14th.

- Charlotte suggested that staff could work anywhere from 40+ hours per week. Though the current budget only accounts for 40 hours of staff time.

- Every staff member is paid the same wage, non-hierarchy rule

- Charlotte currently works 20 hours a week

- Vicki wants to stay on to work 10 hours, but understands in the board does not renew her contract.

#### 7. Meetings for next semester are Mondays from 5 - 7

#### 8. Legal issues-update by Charlotte

- Our lawyer has advised her not to go to corporation branch.

- She went and met with Gail. They went over everything and discussed our issues
- We have a constitution and not a bi-law. Set a quorum number have an AGM.
- Our lawyer found a problem with that so we wanted a pop-up to have 50% of students to say yes.
  - Not optimistic about us doing it this way
- Lawyer is not giving us any options.
- Clause in what we submitted that says that "All changes to our constitution need to be brought to an AGM for half of our membership"
  - Thing is we don't have any bi-laws that don't exist.
- Supposed to read that 50% of the set quorum.
- Gail is getting back to us and is optimistic.
- our lawyer recommends that we don't ask any favours of Corporation branch.
  - Don't even know if there is a problem to begin with.
  - it's a language issue
  
- Charlotte suggests that we should tack this onto a committee/policy.
- Kayleen will help out the issue.
- Our constitution is not ratified so there is a chance that we can change this.

Charlotte is doing the strategic plan for RPIRG. If we have time to fill out questionnaires it will be beneficial. Charlotte will send these out.