

RPIRG Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Feb 15th, 2008

Call to Order: 3:10

BOD Members Present: Jeanette, Phil, Meghan, Sarah, Steph

Creation of Agenda

1. Student Summit for Sustainability conference

- A combination of campuses committed to sustainability combined, including the UofR (2005).....the first branch in Canada
- Organization believes in action and the exchanging of knowledge and experience to improve local sustainability
- Organization wants to reach beyond the UofR by doing outreach with high schools and community groups through networking and projects
- www.wscsd.org
- Successfully have bid for the conference here, once a year delegates come from around the world to discuss the organizations actions (March 12-16, 2008)....26 countries around the world represented
- Members plan to branch out to other portions of the province as well
- Conference focus areas are: urban infrastructure, energy & environment, social & economic development

\$500 registration for international delegate

\$250 for local members to participate in all of the conferences events (all over the province)

- money is required to provide funding to allow students from countries that can not afford to travel here
- money would go to the general funding of the overall conference

2. Regina Books Through Bars (RBTB)

- Has been greatly successful in allocating donations to prisons, many have been pop-fiction etc

- The organization would like to centralize their themes by sending in books of relevant content to the social, political and spiritual needs of inmates, feel that this would help further their mandate
- Would like \$5000 to by (30+) to distribute these specific prisons....Maple creek, Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Edmonton (many Sask. Prisoners there)....might help networking with Albertan PIRGs to unite for this cause
- Total expenses for the Fall was \$564.77 which was more than RPIRG funded. Copies of all receipts were handed in and are in good order.

3. UofR Model United Nations Club

- Will be traveling to New York March 18-22, 2008 to meet with other university campus UN groups from around the world.
- Students represent a country to debate issues of U.N. policy and initiatives
- Will be discussing topics such as: the fight against malaria, alt. sources of energy, eval. of U.N. literacy crusade, etc.
- Money from RPIRG would go to specific travel.....\$500 Working Group request would go to further fundraisers, etc
- Group believes that they want to invest their knowledge into combating poverty in Regina
- Hypothetical ideas include (in the Spring).....putting on fundraisers, book drives, etc. for local groups and charities using their ability to draw in large numbers of people
- Group only has eight people which has made it difficult to raise money... ..receiving money from RPIRG would help them spend more time working on specific issues as apposed to fundraising for the conference
- \$2000+ to send each student
- Members feel that branching out, and learning from the diverse group at the U.N. conference will help them gain and further their perspectives on social justice issues beyond the local community
- Current group wants to make social justice work a permanent focus of their group.....part of their constitution.....want to work with local groups to further understand where their knowledge and skills can aid these programs

4. **Janette** is requesting access \$250 from the Board Development Fund in order to go to S.F.PIRG to attend workshops on media awareness, she has contacted them

so that they can meet.....are willing to work with her to improve RPIRG's media awareness

- Janette will report to the board and PR committee (written and in presentation form) at the board meeting following her return (Feb. 29th, 2008)
- The board approves this subsidy
- Suggestion made that we create a folder including board member development throughout the year (what they've learned from other PIRGs) to be an ongoing collection of information

5. Roberta Lexier

- Speaking at conference March 15
- Needs only funding for her flight (has accommodations)
- Up to \$500 approved for this flight

6. **Board suggests mandating** the application assessment committee to make a strong recommendation to the board to speed up the approval process

Meeting Adjured 4:07