

RPIRG Board Meeting

March 27, 2009; 3:00-5:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Charene, Laurie, Clint, Ahmed, Victoria, Brennan, Charlotte, Rhonda

Regrets: Alix, Robbie, Shaheen

1. Introductions/Check-In (12 mins)
2. Approve Agenda (1 minute)
Charene had asked to add a report on the SCIC meeting. It will be 8.1
BIRT the agenda was accepted as amended.
3. Approve Minutes (March 16/09) (2 minutes)
BIRT the minutes for the meeting of March 16, 2009 were accepted as presented.
4. Approve Acclamations (5 minutes)
BIRT we approve all four candidates, Alix Lwanga, Brennan Hill, Robbie Humble and Victoria Flores, as acclaimed members of the RPIRG Board of Directors.
5. Board Roles, Responsibilities, Expectations and Committees (20 minutes)
We went through the responsibility section of the orientation package and the board meeting roles as adopted at the March 16 meeting. Rhonda read the general expectations and responsibilities. Board members supported these as accurately describing their understanding of their responsibilities.

Why be part of RPIRG:

- *gain sense of how boards work*
- *fun way to meet new people*
- *what it stood for, ideas, what it could be*
- *learn about consensus*
- *experience, leadership, ACT!, network*
- *view world from different perspectives*
- *go above and beyond what others do*
- *best way to figure out what RPIRG is*
- *make friends, learn, cool events*
- *try something, get experience*

Committees: Laurie described staff relations in terms of hiring and checking in, Charene talked about policy and the interesting place this can be as we evaluate and evolve current policy, Ahmed discussed finance and expressed some frustration that other than budget development, paying staff and signing cheques, he has not felt very involved, and Clint talked about the funding decisions made by the Applications Assessment committee. We noted that this committee structure is up for discussion as we look at staff and board organization.

*Today's Roles: Superscribe and Facilitator: Rhonda
 Charlotte: Timekeeper
 Vibe-Watcher: Victoria
 Snacks: Clint*

6. Consensus Model and Exercise (20 minutes)

There is some information on working by consensus in the orientation package. Rhonda also distributed additional sheets on making decisions. Rhonda emphasized that the key she has found useful is to ask oneself "Can I support this?" Also, she has found that there is significant responsibility to understand the reasons for your own opinions, to share these and listen openly to those of others. Ahmed noted that it is always important to remember that you represent other students and to ask "what is in students' interests?" Charene added that consensus requires patience! We did a values ranking activity to engage in some self-examination, and then chose out top 5 values in groups of about 3. It engendered some interesting conversations and experiments with consensus.

7. Budget Report (5 minutes)

Chart now has columns for budget and actuals.

8. RPIRG Events (5 minutes)

Please attend and bring everyone you know. Get the word out! Inform yourself about the events. Use e-mail, facebook and face-to-face conversations to let others know. We need volunteers to poster and table in the next 2 weeks.

- **The Great Tar Sands Debate**, featuring Andrew Nikiforuk and Dr. Carolyn Preston. The purpose of the tour is to generate informed public debate about the Tar Sand development in Saskatchewan's foreseeable future. March 19, Ed Aud, 7pm Clint said the no tar sands development side clearly one this one.
- **Greening the Grid**, Tim Weis will discuss Saskatchewan's potentials for a non-nuclear future. April 2, Mackenzie Art Gallery, 7pm.
- **Myths for Profit** (film screening and discussion). Dramatic exposé documentary, which explores 'Canada's role in Industries of War and Peace'. Only by breaking down these myths can we hope to understand how these systems of power operate, and help empower people across Canada to change them. April 7, Luther College Auditorium (2nd floor LC) 7pm
- April 17 – Elizabeth May, leader of the Green Party– Ed Aud, 7pm(OXFAM event – we will not table, because it is partisan – members are free to attend)
- Charlotte is making t-shirts at Cam's house Wednesday April 1 at 2:00. Anyone is welcome to help. These will be ready for these upcoming events! Our globe will not silkscreen well, so she will work with people with silkscreening experience to design a logo.

For the future, Charene checked out the RPL film theatre. On Mondays and Tuesdays when they do not show movies, we would only have to pay the projectionist. Worth checking out.

8.1. SCIC Youth Meeting

Charene went to the meeting held by SCIC at Atlantis last night. They shared some of their youth initiatives and the desire to support other young people working on international development or raising awareness of international issues. They want to know how they can help. They currently can:

- send press releases
- conduct media workshops
- fax

- *other staff duties*
- *monthly e-zine that we can advertise events in*
- *Charene brought some publications to the meeting*

9. Introduction to Basecamp (10 minutes)

Charlotte led us through the basics on her laptop. We reiterated the need to check in a couple of times a week. Please see staff if you are having difficulty.

10. Scheduling: (20 minutes)

- *General Availability: Ahmed is still only available Friday afternoons.*
- *Summer Availability: Most people will be working weekdays, daytime, but we will look again when everyone knows their jobs and has a schedule. Some can arrange to be at a meeting if they have a week or 2 advance notice.*
- *Next Meeting: Friday, April 3, 3-5 (Rhonda sends regrets)*
- *Retreat: May 2-3. Book the full weekend for this. Please let staff know any requests regarding food, educational components, conversations or bonding activities. Staff will begin to look for a location.*
- *Board Development Workshop: tabled*
- *PIRG Skype Conference: PIRGs across Canada are trying to find a time for a skype conference in April. Brennan will download the program and Charlotte has a web camera. The tentative agenda currently includes:*
 - *Board and Transitions (questions about responsibilities, annual transitions, etc.)*
 - *Budget/Financial (writing/maintaining/stretching a budget, grants/financial resources)*
 - *Staffing (division of labour between staff members, staff/workstudy questions/concerns)*
 - *Time Management (balancing administrative duties with organizing)*
 - *Delegating and Volunteers (engaging membership and volunteers, facilitating accountability)*

11. Applications Assessment Committee: Additional Funding Application (15 mins)

Tabled to Friday, April 3.

12. Check-out (5 minutes)

Meeting ended 4:55