

RPIRG Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Sept 24th, 2007

Board Members Present: Gabe P, Dagan H, Kristy F.

Call to order: 4:35pm

Introductions

Proposed agenda tabled. No amendments or additions.

Updates:

Free Knowledge Day: Good turnout, good feedback. Seemed to be a realtive success. Mike S, who organized the event was not present for a more detailed update.

Office Preparation: Office has been setup in the Ridell Center room 124, and was setup at a cost under the budgeted \$2000 max.

Staff Hiring: The board of Directors went through 23 applications to the position of Administrative Coordinator, as well as interviews, and decided on the hiring of Shawn O'Dell for the four month contract position, which started today (Sept 24th).

Opt Out: Opt Out of the RPIRG dedicated student fee began today with the total opt-outs thus far being one person. The opt-out will continute until Oct 10th, with updates forthcoming.

Domain Name Registration: A domain name has been registered (www.rpirg.org), as well as the ongoing creation of an agreement for the current owner of www.rpirg.ca to reroute traffic to www.rpirg.org. Gabe P is handling this issue, and will update the Board further when more information comes forward.

Possibility of Spending Alternatives: Discussion amongst Board on finding alternative methods of spending money, as cheques have proven to be an insufficient method.

Ralph Nader: Dagan Harding represented RPIRG at a dinner with Ralph Nader on Wed Sept. 19th, and filled the board in on discussion with Nader and representative from Democracy Watch. Dagan found the experience very enlightening and motivating, and brought back to the board an idea that the fellow from Democ. Watch felt would be a good project for the future: which is to organize a poll of students that intended to see how the students fell about their university, and where things couls get better. Discussion on this idea will be ongoing. Thanks Dagan!

Dagan's discussion brought forward a broader discussion on how RPIRG can create an organizing effect between groups and organizations on campus.

New Business:

Hiring contract between the Board of Directors and the new Admin. Coord.: working document

brought to the table that was worked on by Gabe P, Shawn O, and Jim E.

Discussion arose about creating a staff liason position that would be a intermediary between Admin Coord and the Board of Directors, as well as instituting a review process for a future date to review the work of the Admin. Coord.

Contract to be finalized following meeting.

Liability Insurrance for BOD: a common practice among corporations to protect Board members from being caught up in the mailicious actions of others in conducting the coporations business. Instructions for the Admin Coord to look into possibilities for the Board, including talking with Mahaila from the Women's Center in regards to their experience with this issue.

Staff Liason Position: Continued discussion from the hiring contract discussion (above) that involved creating said intermediary position. Disuccion rasied many possibilites, including: a rotating board positon to be staff liason for a designated time; said rotating postion could also be the chair of meetings during the time of filling position of staff liason; a volunteer member could fill position to engcourage involvement from other members besides the Board; model after the Women's Center by creating a Labour Committee that is the defacto Liason between staff and Board.

Discussion to be ongoing, including a document that will outline exactly what this position entails. For now, an informal position will be encouraged to Board Members.

Petty Cash: Motion:

Whereas: Administartive Coordinator needs \$100.00 cash at all times for miscellaneous expenses. BIRT the Board approves setting up a petty cash of \$100.00 to be available at all times with proper documentation of spending.

Motion Carried.

Staff Bank Access: Motion:

BIRT the Board of Directors and Administrative Coordinator draw up a letter that allows Administrative Coordinator the ability to monitor and discuss RPIRG bank accounts with the Conexus Credit Union.

Motion Carried.

Working Group and Project/event funding potentials: Shawn O raised the possibility of a working group forming under RPIRG. If anyone is interested in getting involved in its creation, they are to contact RPIRG to get more info and contact details. The Potential Working Group plans to have a meeting on campus in October to see what interest there is from students.

Project/event funding: RPIRG received the description of an event to be held on campus. This event is under the Department of Visual Arts. Proper funding applications have been forwarded to the event organizers, and more information will be forthcoming.

Budgeting: Creation of a budgetting committee to draw up a working budget for RPIRG. All interested members should contact RPIRG. Meeting to be set by Admin Coord. More discusison forthcoming.

Elections: Admin Coord. To look into more info on having elections of the RPIRG Board of Director in October.

RPIRG Name: For future consideration it will be important to consider the obligations of those who use the RPIRG name. Although the funding application do make reference to obligations of recipients, there should be attention paid to use of name in instances other than distributing funding.

Next Meeting: October 1st, 2007 @ 4:30 in the Ridell Center Cafeteria (same place as usual)

Adjourned: 6:00pm