

Meeting Minutes
Cornell Alumni Association of Greater Rochester, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
November 3, 2010
7:00 PM – 9:37 PM
At: Fairport, NY

Attendance

Board and Committee members: Lawrence Wetzel, Thomas Helfrich, Chris Cassidy, Sharon Cassidy and Lois Irwin (Niland)

Others Present: Timothy Mahar and Mindy Hillenbrand (Cornell University); Kathryn Lancioni

This Board Meeting of the Cornell Alumni Association of Greater Rochester, Inc. (“Club”) was called to order by President L. Wetzel. He welcomed those attending this evening’s meeting.

C. Cassidy introduced K. Lancioni, who may be interested in becoming the Club’s Membership Committee Chairperson.

Minutes from the October 15, 2010 Board meeting had been circulated, and were approved on a motion duly made, seconded and passed unanimously.

The President indicated he had still not been able to get answers to all his questions about the Club’s financial Reports for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2010. Discussion and acceptance of that report was again tabled.

The Treasurer had email distributed a Statement of Cash Flows for the Club’s current 2010-2011 fiscal year. For the period July 1, 2010 through October 31, 2010, it showed a 7/1/10 Operating Balance of \$7,218; Income of \$4,109 (including Membership Income = \$1,660; Programming Income = \$288; Interest Income = \$1; Scholarship Income = \$2,160), Expenses of \$974 (including Administrative Expense = \$278; Programming Expense = \$0; Banking Fees = \$9; Scholarship Expense = \$687); Due To Scholarship = \$1,473; Current Operating Balance = \$8,880. Discussion and acceptance of that report was also tabled pending the President’s discussions with the Treasurer.

It was noted that we had not yet completed development of a more detailed budget for the current fiscal year.

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Membership Chairman C. Cassidy reported that the Club had done a postal mailing around October 10th to solicit paid members for the current year. 75 members joined from the mailer and 16 from the website. We now have 98 paid members (including 73 renewals, 18 new members and 7 life members), who paid \$1840 in dues and contributed \$940 to the Scholarship Fund.

T. Mahar noted that he had just distributed (earlier today) an updated draft of Cornell's dues free option (see attachments). This is still under development, and needs further discussion with the alumni clubs and also reviews at Cornell. If the Club decides not to participate in the dues free option, he assured the Board that the Club would not lose any of the financial or other "benefits" we now get from Cornell. They are looking at the insurance questions at Cornell on November 5th. M. Hillenbrand walked us through some of the "implementing." There was an extended discussion about this, with questions, concerns and a consideration of some of the pros and cons. Updated information will be provided as the program is worked out further, and the Club will have further discussions with Cornell, but it was clear that nothing will be finalized before the end of the Club's current fiscal year.

M. Hillenbrand is to give us a list of the clubs that have participated in the IvyExec proposal.

Several Board members expressed concern about what is the Club's role in the University's eyes. For example, we have historically done essay contests, local scholarships, college nights and other activities that are seemingly no longer the University's priorities. We had historically done community activities to increase awareness about Cornell, but there seems to be little of that in the University's newly outlined emphases.

T. Cummings was unable to attend the meeting, so discussion about the Club's website, possible social media connections, and Cornell Connect were postponed until a future meeting.

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L. Wetzel reported that the Homecoming Tailgate party, which we did as a joint get-together with the Yale alumni club, was again coordinated by D. Menz. It was not well attended (about 6 Cornell people, one of whom came so late he missed the entire tailgate). The Club lost about \$100 on the event.

L. Wetzel and L. Irwin reported on the International Zinck's Night gathering, held at Tavern 58 this year. It was very successful, with about 28 attendees. Appetizers cost the Club about \$160. D. Dwyer said that the Rochester Cornell Club has the real Zinck's bar, taken from Ithaca when they closed. It is supposed to still be in storage in Rochester.

L. Wetzel and L. Irwin reported on the program with Cornell's Professor Christopherson speaking. It went very well.

L. Irwin reported that she had tried a last-minute effort to hold a gathering at the recent Genesee Regatta, but only two people attended. We only learned at the "last minute" that Cornell crews would actually be rowing there this year. That area activity has changed greatly in the last few years, and apparently is no longer as big or well supported as in the first decade or so after it was started. We can try again next year if we get an early enough answer on whether Cornell crews will be coming to Rochester.

There were a number of additional announcements about scheduled Club activities, as well as possible new activities to appeal to a broad range of alumni. L. Irwin distributed a list of "2010-2011 Event Planning" programs, particularly reviewing upcoming activities for the next eight months. We are all set for the November 22nd Cornell-Penn annual luncheon. We will try to do a group meal before the November 23rd Cornell-Colgate ice hockey game, for which we have 25 tickets reserved for Lynah rink. Our traditional manning of the phonebank during the WXXI TV phonaton fund-raiser will be November 29th. We will again be assembling Holiday Baskets of food for the needy, on December 18th. The January 8th Founders' Day luncheon is all set for the Country Club of Rochester, but Cornell still has not confirmed a speaker! The Hunt Hollow ski date is not yet set, nor are a number of the other activities scheduled. We will be doing a "Sports Trifecta" on February 1st. The annual new student send-off will be August 11th, again at W. McCarthy's home.

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There was a discussion about the Club's Annual Meeting. We have held it, for the last few years, in conjunction with a group activity at a Rochester Red Wings game. This year we lost money on the guaranteed meals. The Board decided not to hold the 2001 Annual Meeting at Frontier Field, but to either do it separately or in some other planned event. L. Wetzel is to let R. Lanzafame know about the change.

Possible future functions could include a bourbon tasting (which was a success at the Buffalo club), a family day at the Charlotte carousel (perhaps including our annual meeting?), a Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra orchestra for kids, beer tasting, and/or scotch tasting (at Lisa's Liquor barn?; New York City club does such an event). M. Hillenbrand suggested we might want to do some joint activity with the Cornell alumni club in Ithaca.

L. Wetzel mentioned the Rochester Preparatory School request for the Club to become "involved" with the school. It was agreed we need more information about the School, its proposal, its needs, what other outside groups are involved and what they are/will be doing, what it is requesting of us and for what time period, etc. The matter was tabled at this point.

At this time, there was no change in the previously announced list of the voting Board members, which is comprised of the four elected officers, the immediate past President, the six elected At-Large Directors, and the Chairmen of the Standing Committees. L. Wetzel is still finalizing the Chairs.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board is set for January 5, 2011, 7:30 PM, at the home of Thomas Helfrich.

There being no other business to come before the Board this evening, the meeting was declared adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Helfrich
Secretary

Attachments

At this time, there was no change in the previously announced list of the voting Board members, which is comprised of the four elected officers, the immediate past President, the six elected At-Large Directors, and the Chairmen of the Standing Committees. At this time, this means a total of 13 (?) different individual Board members, for which the By-Laws set a majority quorum (therefore currently 7 (?)) for the transaction of business by the Board at any meeting.

President = Lawrence Wetzel

Vice President = Lois F. Niland

Treasurer = Mason Argiropoulos

Secretary = Thomas G. Helfrich

Immediate Past President = Jack Clarcq

Directors-At-Large (one year term ending in 2011) =

Chris Cassidy

Sharon Cassidy

Kerri Ann Kiniorski

Directors-At-Large (two year term ending in 2012) =

William McCarthy

Amy McLymond

Chris Torres

Other elected Directors ... there aren't any others carrying over, right?

Chairmen (until replaced) of By-Laws Listed Standing Committees =

CAAAN = Cara Cardinale (staying same?)

Membership = Chris Cassidy (above) (staying same?)

Scholarship = Kerri Ann Kiniorski (see above) (staying same?)

Program = Lois Niland (see above)

Scholarship Fund Oversight Committee = (who is Chair?)

Nominating Committee = Robert Buhite (is this correct?)

Jack & Larry... In addition to the above positions that are listed in the By-Laws, the By-Laws provide that the "official/voting" Board also includes the Chairmen (until replaced) of any "Board Authorized" (other) "Standing Committees." I looked back at several years of Minutes (that I had copies of) & could find no place the Board ever said anything about any other Committees that would fit this category. Definitely not since the new By-Laws passed a year ago. Yet I am not sure if any of the following were ever authorized previously &, if so, who is the Chair = (1) was Webmaster (&/or Communications) = Thomas Cummings now (?); (2) (Endowment (name seems to crop up with this or other committee names) = Nannette Nocon ? (or who?); (3) others? (I know that a number of other people get Minutes, which is fine, but that doesn't mean they are Board members.