

CMOS Ottawa Centre

Minutes of Meeting – May 17, 2012

In Attendance: Paul Pestieau, Bob Jones, Adrienne Tivy, Sheila Bourque, Denis Bourque, Wayne Richardson, Richard Asselin, Yvon Bernier, Ann McMillan, Andrew Lafreniere

Meeting began at 11 am.

1 – Approval of Agenda - approved.

2 – Review of previous actions – to be discussed in context of agenda.

3 – Election and Introduction of New Executive Members

Denis Bourque will review the list of candidates for the Executive before the speaker and ensure that either there are additional nominees and an election, or the slate is acclaimed. (NOTE : the slate was acclaimed as proposed – see attachment).

4 – Lunch Venue Options

Issues that have been raised with the current location include :

- Quality of food.
- No table cloths
- Value for money
- Current venue not conducive to increasing membership

Discussion raised the following points :

- The Navy Mess is seen by many as a nice spot for the lunches. The big issue is the small capacity.
- Denis had sent out the table of possible locations developed by the committee last year. There were feelings that the table needed another revisit with other potential locations considered.
- Sheila stated that when she was with the Ice Service, people there complained about the prices. Paul pointed out that many at the Ice Service are not members and hence have to pay the higher price.
- We want to gain members but we don't want to do this only through cost reductions.
- CMOS must be careful not to lower lunch prices or offer subsidies because we could lose our tax status. However, subsidies to cover venue rental (not food) can be applied without endangering the Society's non-profit status.
- A survey to members to assess why more people do not attend was proposed by Sheila. This could be done through Doodle or other software.
- Denis raised a number of considerations besides the food : the actual room cost, setup, HST, gratuities, need to pay for personnel such as bartender, parking availability and audio visual equipment availability.
- The meal at the current location is about \$11/person and is considered a low price.

- It was clear that no decisions would be reached and that each location including the current Legion and the Navy Mess have issues. While nowhere is perfect, the meal itself was considered important as was the use of table cloths to provide a more refined appearance. Andrew suggested buying a few table cloths and rotating the responsibility of bringing them to the lunches.
- Bob suggested it is important to track student no-shows because we pay full price for their meals.
- Paul suggested forming a committee to revisit the venue location :
 - Paul, Adrienne, Marty (was volunteered), Wayne, and Denis volunteered to provide background on the previous exercise.
 - The committee should consider the venue but also the different factors that make up the cost beyond just the meal itself.
 - Sheila would prefer to put energy into the survey, which could help guide the committee.
 - Andrew will participate in the survey development to ensure it captures issues of interest to students.
 - Andrew will see if there are rooms available at universities for some lunches, as a way to draw more students in to CMOS.
 - The committee will need to do its work before the summer so that the Executive can meet before the first fall event to agree on a venue.

5 – Public Event Planning

- Paul has already spoken to the friends of the Gatineau. Has also invited them to meeting at Museum of Nature
- We want to have a look at venue at Museum of Nature, meet with Meredith Brown, and to see what the venue is like (goal of going to May 25th event at Museum of Nature)
- The Museum of Nature is in the midst of rethinking their approach, so the timing to work with them is very good.
- The Executive reconfirmed that the ceiling amount for support of this event is about \$1000 which could be used in a number of ways.
- The \$1,000 is based on the previously approved expenditure of \$500/year for this type of event, where such an event occurs every two years.
- Paul was encouraged to get prices for holding lunches at the museum.

6 – Financial Report

Yvon noted that all was well and that he has now received the matching fund subvention from CMOS National.

7 – Final remarks

- The Executive thanked Paul for his leadership for an excellent year.
- Ann volunteered to develop a draft plan giving dates and potential speakers for next year to be available to the new Executive as a planning tool.
- Paul reviewed the CMOS Congress requirements for Executive participation, such as the Annual General Meeting. He and several of the other Executive will attend.
- Andrew said he would work to get CMOS name out to students.

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