

Executive Committee Meeting

1/26/07

Rolling Ridge Conference Centre, MidWinter Conference

Attending: Jan Morgan, Andrew Mason, Ron McClain, Nancy Ramsden, Judi Blum, Peggy Andreas, Caroline Jestin, Audrey Kern, Peter Bloch (acting as secretary in Kay's absence)

The meeting opened at 7:35 pm, Jan Morgan in the chair.

Youth program

Ron McClain noted that he produced a written report for the retreat in which he identified some issues around Blake and supervision. For now, he is particularly interested in guesses about the projected numbers of youngsters coming in June. Staffing was discussed. Kim may be available again, Chris Neil might be a possible lead teacher. Last year the number of kids was possibly under 20. 4 teachers may be the minimum needed for organizational reasons.

Jan began discussion about the teen talk group. Sam has volunteered to do this again. Patti is probably not coming. Sam needs to know that. Nancy mentioned that the programmers are hoping to have a conference hour with teens presenting. There was some discussion about how many of these teens will be there—many are seniors and have unpredictable plans. It would be good if we could find a replacement for Patti in such a way that the teens would have a role in making the choice. Jan will confirm that Sam will do this job and look at how to find a replacement for Patti.

Ron mentioned that there was no outdoor program last year for the teens, but they might organize one this year, perhaps for the 10-14 year old group.

Judi put forward the idea of setting up a craft centre for kids that would be open much of the day. Such a centre would keep kids from being bored in the afternoon. We could possibly open the pool at 1pm, followed by games/crafts, workshops. Judi asked about a possible budget allotment of money that may have been available in the past for an afternoon program. No one else remembered this. Ron mentioned that there used to be more kid-oriented workshops. Questions arose about pool hours and costs; it is an expensive aspect of our offerings. Some years it has cost \$900 for a lifeguard.

Related questions arose about Upward Bound's use of the pool. We need to ask the school about this in May if not earlier. Andrew will ask Rafaela. We should check to see if the sports team (Mark and Warren) will be involved in this again, and if they

want input about the pool hours.

Back to discussion about the conference paying for afternoon supervision of kids, Ron expressed a reluctance to get into this. Jan suggested that this discussion might be deferred to the summer to consult more parents and in light of the new week-later schedule. Jan supported the idea of the afternoon crafts/activities centre. Judi asked whether it would be possible to give the person who does the afternoon supervision free room and board.

Judi also mentioned the lack of supervised activities during Community and Annual meetings.

Peggy mentioned that as parents who once had young children, we should not be too cavalier about security issues concerning the kids at this campus and specially given the shared use of the campus. Ron said that some families have solved the problem on their own by bringing supervisors for their kids. Jan talked about how a lot of these things work when there are a lot of volunteers to make it work. Andrew talked about how this might be a good summer to experiment with new ideas for supervision in the afternoon and evenings. There was some discussion about how great a deal it is financially for parents to bring kids, and have all these services included. How far does the conference want to go in subsidizing the cost of this program, which is an investment in our future? It integrates our value system which focuses on educating and supporting the kids.

Judi said she would be able to organize volunteers for this program if she could get the names of families in advance, so she could get commitments from people.

Peggy talked about how far the youth program has come in a few years, with Ron's invaluable help. Now maybe we need this same commitment to create/reinvigorate the afternoon program. She suggested appointing a coordinator for the afternoon youth program (like Ron does for the morning one, and the babysitter coordinator does for youngsters in the evening). Nancy suggested that Charlie could be that coordinator. Ron suggested that he and Judi should work on getting a good list of parent families. Jan added that there is discussion of having an overall coordinator of Blake, who would want to be in the loop on afternoon youth activities. Andrew mentioned that the interns for the summer school will be based on the top floor of Blake, and that will create some conflict with our uses.

Judi expressed concerns about the use of the Overton dorm near the pool and having kids walking all over the campus. This prompted a big discussion about the disadvantages of this dorm, and what alternatives there might be. There was some debate about whether there is a need for a Blake coordinator.

Communications

Jan, Peggy and Peter agreed to form an adhoc subcommittee to look at some issues around website hosting and databases. Due to lack of time, discussion of this issue was deferred.

League

Ron briefly reviewed some technical information concerning the maintenance of our tax-exempt status. and talked about the two other conferences and their plans. Each group has its own investment accounts. Erie is talking about having one last conference next year as a going-away event. Graceanna has been authorized to pay for League expenses from NAC funds, and we will presumably be reimbursed later by the League. It may not be necessary to hold an annual League meeting in the future; it may be done by a conference call. Ron suggested that the NAC Executive committee needs to make sure that the annual meeting requirements get taken care of.

Jan brought up a question that was raised at the November meeting concerning setting up a "Site Committee" which would investigate alternatives to NF or MH, given the turmoil of the past couple of years. Ron suggested that we postpone this until the Annual meeting, when we will have had the experience of being there a second year, and see if there is any grassroots movement to go elsewhere. He felt we should conserve our energies and not worry about this too much in advance.

Finance and Fundraising

Ron passed out a budget report and projections, explaining that the budget for next year (including June) is his best estimate, nothing is definitive. MidWinter is not bringing in as much money as anticipated. Ron went through a lot of important lines in the budget. Golf carts were discussed; we may need to have two carts next year. The League line of the budget is high but this will be reimbursed. A number of lines seemed to have minor glitches that Ron will take care of. The EC voted to approve the budget, with the understanding that Ron will change some lines in order to incorporate corrections and changes in programming, etc.

Jan mentioned that no real financial report was presented last year at the Annual meeting, though it is called for in the Bylaws. This should be corrected next summer.

Ron and Peggy talked about Graceanna's desire to maintain her connection to the conference and the treasurer's job, and how we will do whatever is needed to help make that happen. At some point we will probably have a new bookkeeper/treasurer, and it would be best if that person was a member of the conference.

The annual appeal was slated to be Ron's job; he didn't do it in the usual way but he

did send direct notes to various people who have been past contributors. Caroline asked about changing the fiscal year to end July 1 so as to facilitate fundraising and getting people focused on giving when they are together in June. Ron said the current fiscal year is best for the cycle of Northfield activities. Without changing the fiscal year, there could be much more coordination of fundraising with the times of year when our members are most likely to give.

Caroline said that the poster project was a big disappointment, didn't sell nearly as many as she expected. Caroline was appreciated by the executive for her efforts on this project. She has got financial support.

Judi suggested a future fundraising project might be to create a CD of Northfield songs that could be sold. She might work with Lindsay or Bill Milford, who both are interested in recording things at Northfield.

Summer Programming

Gene Robinson will be a conference hour speaker, but will only be there for the day of his presentation. This is a definite. He understands that this is not a sermon but a life story. Diane Murphy is another conference hour speaker. At Diane's request, Kym has agreed to be a back up for Diane in case Diane has problems. Allison is working with some teens to do a conference hour. Assuming that the teen thing happens, the programmers need two more conference hour speakers. Nancy has a long list of ideas, and she asked how she should proceed.

The Mid-Atlantic group will be joining us this summer and will give a workshop on story-telling from their years together to share with all of us. Allison and Betsy Taylor are taking care of workshops.

Dances of Universal Peace will be an evening program. Question: how many nights should Frank Grillo do the music? And how does that relate to his willingness to do this very time-consuming project. Nancy is going to solicit feedback about all sorts of evening plans at the Community meeting.

there was more discussion about the campus and our use of various dorms to make a compact campus, and how this related to evening activities.

Community Meeting

Jan collected various agenda items for Sunday's community meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30.