

CIP Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday May 11, 2010 John Wenck's house

Present: Ray Knight, John Holzmueller, Greg Beisker, Ned McPartland, and John Wenck

treasurer's report

Bill provided the treasurer's report via email, since he was unable to attend the meeting. It is as follows:

\$150 IRR conference

 \$50 trail map sponsorship

 \$339.77 for March newsletter mailing

 \$137.45 for Dick Howard expo and misc. printing and sticker expenses

Credits include \$395 in membership dues mailed to our PO Box.

The current balance in the CIP account is \$1,959.50. The \$150 IRR conference sponsorship is contingent on a face vote at the board meeting. There were 14 \$10 dues and 17 \$15 memberships. I checked the mailbox in the last few days. Lynn, we need to get you the forms etc. so that you can update the membership list. Sincerely and truly,
Bill Graham, CIP Treasurer

issues with by-laws

Ray passed around a copy of the CIP by-laws which indicated that "a quorum will be six people" and that if "less than six can participate in a board meeting, the board meeting will be rescheduled". Ned commented that this seemed pretty strict, as usually in Robert's Rules of Order, a majority is a quorum. Currently there are only 7 active board members with 2 vacant positions. A simple majority would be 5 if you included all 9 positions, and 4 if you only included active board positions.

Although a quorum was not present, the five board members in attendance all agreed to go ahead and conduct business and vote if needed, and extend the voting to the two absent directors via email in order to achieve the needed quorum. We didn't know if this was allowable, but didn't want to waste an opportunity make headway.

John W. made a motion to:

1. Change article III, section B. to read "Quorum will be a majority of active board members" instead of "Quorum will be six people".

and

2. Add the sentence: "Major board decisions including changes to the by-laws requires a quorum plus one".

Ned 2nd. The motion passed unanimously.

quest for new board members

We discussed the need to find new board members. Ned mentioned Robin's recommendation of Pam Brennan who is an ESL teacher at Lincoln high school. We all agreed that she would be a good candidate. Ray said he would make a call to her to see if she'd be interested. John W. said he would make another call to Diane Lowry. She's very experienced and it would be nice to have a sea kayaker on the board. Greg thought John Craun would be a good candidate, as well.

IRR support

Ray made a motion to approve the \$150 expenditure for sponsoring IRR. John W. 2nd. It passed.

We discussed Robin's request for CIP to help advertise an IRR fundraiser scheduled for Sept 11th in Rippey, and possibly include the float trip Ned scheduled on the Middle Raccoon as part of the deal. We all agreed that we should do this, and Ned said he could change the float trip to the North Raccoon, which is much closer to Rippey than the Middle Raccoon.

Raccoon River Water Trail in Polk County

John W. updated the board on the Raccoon River Water Trail project in Polk County. The water trail subcommittee (John W, Robin, Ray, and Mike Delaney) recently toured the trail from the beginning at Commerce Ledges to the terminus at the confluence with the Des Moines River. The City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation has committed \$20,000 to create a portage around the Scott Street Dam. It's a major project, but may take a couple years to complete. John Requested input and help from the board when it is time to proof-read the content for the kiosks.

support for Get Your Rear in Gear Event - David McCluskey

David McCluskey is a colon cancer survivor and is spearheading this fundraising event for colon cancer awareness. He is trying to line up a number of races, including walkers, bikers, and a 5K. He has invited us to host a canoe/kayak race at Blue Heron Lake, or Raccoon River Park. It is scheduled for October 9th. The board agreed it might be a good idea to get involved but would like to know a little more about the event and what would be required from CIP. John W. said he would follow up with David on this.

using technology to engage and communicate with members

Ray commented that he thought the new CIP Facebook page was doing well, and that we are up to 90+ members now. It seems to be working well, as videos and photographs have been uploaded by other facebook members about paddling trips, etc. There seems to be good activity and it is a plus for our group.

John W. talked about the benefits of switching to a yahogroup for our membership. Currently, communication to our members places all the burden on Lynn, who isn't always able to get the messages out timely. For instance, if a trip is scheduled on a

Sunday and needs to be canceled because of high water or inclement weather, there isn't a good way to get the message out because Lynn doesn't have access to her computer on the weekends. Greg also mentioned that a yahoo group allows for better member to member communication and conversation. Ned said sometimes he will spontaneously add a trip because of a break in the weather or for whatever reason and would like the ability to quickly post this to other members, but cautioned us about opening it up to just anyone. A couple board members felt that we should limit this to only CIP members.

John W. made a motion to begin migrating over to a yahoo group for CIP members only. Greg 2nd. The motion was unanimously passed.

John W. passed out hard copy examples of emails he receives from other groups that use a template format, which allows for links and nicely formatted, easy-to-read emails about upcoming events, important information, etc. He said he would like CIP to move in this direction to communicate with membership. Greg Vitale of Skunk River Paddlers sends out a monthly update about events and CIP could do the same. The nice thing about the template emails is that you could include links to our Web site, which is static right now. The only time someone sees our Web site right now is if they type in the URL. A template email would make it easy to share links to important information, our calendar, etc. Newsletters could also be set up in this format. John said there are a variety of programs out there, such as, ConstantContact, Wordpress, CapWiz, and others that would help us achieve this.

John H. indicated that it would be nice to move away from printed newsletters. It cost nearly \$400 to send out our March newsletter. Ned cautioned that there are still some folks out there who don't have access to computers. A couple board members thought we could just send out the schedule by snail mail instead of the entire newsletter to save on costs. John W. said most libraries offer public access to computers. No decisions were made on this subject, but John W. agreed to look into options and see how easy this would be to create template emails. ConstantContact is a pay for service and could cost \$10 to \$15 per month, but there are many free services out there. The difference is that some of the free services require more technical savvy to use, whereas ConstantContact is quite easy for most people to use and they have free live technical support.

trip Report on Upper Iowa River

Greg and John H provided a report on the Upper Iowa River trip. It went well! It rained the night before which raised the water level, making the float great for Sat and Sun.

next meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18th, 6:30PM at John Wenck's house.

John W. motioned to adjourn, Greg 2nd. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by John Wenck.

N.B.

Lynn and Bill voted aye to the above motions via phone and email.