

Rocky Mountain Harvard University Club
Steering Committee Minutes, September 5, 2012

In attendance: Eric Eversley, Christina Gomez, John Griffin, Junko Kim, Fred Ris, Phil Weintraub

Guest: Marco DeGaetano

Consent Agenda: Minutes from the August 1 meeting and a report on the BBQ / Annual Meeting were adopted.

Financial: BBQ will be in the black. Mt. Harvard mementos will come to about \$900. Continued issues with alum access to Alumni Magnet.

Beginning of Year Matters: The Mission Statement and Value Proposition statements were considered and re-adopted without amendment.

President's Statement: Fred explained the evolution towards the difference in structure from last year. The Trustees are fewer in number, in anticipation of Bylaws revisions. They have formally chartered the Steering Committee, which name has not previously appeared in any governing documents. The Trustees will be explicitly accountable for the Club's governance, and the Steering Committee will have day-to-day management authority, including managing its own composition. As for the shape of the Club and how it aims to fulfill its mission, he had been (somewhat unconsciously) trying to restore it to his perception of how it was in 2006 when he started to be active. Many surrounding circumstances have changed, and it must be up to the new blood to account for them.

It had also become apparent that he had taken on too many roles without clearly differentiating among them, and this had led to the perception that the president's job was enormous, whereas the key issue was clearly defining roles and then delegating them.

Resolution of Trustees establishing the Steering Committee: The August 27 resolutions of the Trustees establishing the SC and its initial composition were reviewed and accepted.

Complimentary Memberships: Prior to last year, the Club had offered varying levels of membership dues discount for recent graduates. With the adoption of Alumni Magnet, it became considerably more efficient to simply grant complimentary membership, and so we have offered three years of membership to graduates of the College. It turns out that we have several dozen 2012 graduates from other schools in the University, and the Trustees had recommended that they be extended one year of complimentary membership. The SC decided to so do.

Prioritization: Members had previously assigned priorities from 1 to 5 to several dozen possible ways to spend our collective energy and cash. The list was reviewed, and the top items included many flavors of events. Discussion about hiring outside help for the planning and execution of events tended negative, although getting paid assistance for website maintenance was favorable. Further discussion about a volunteer recognition event moved its priority higher. After brief discussion about the dynamics of our undergraduate summer employment programs over the past ten years, it was concluded that they had not been worth the return on investment of cash and – especially – energy that had gone into them; we will let a summer program rest for 2013.

4th Quarter Events: Junko and Marco presented two events – a watch party and discussion for the first presidential debate on October 3, and a historical talk and tour in Boulder on November 14. These will go forward as proposed. A brief discussion on venue for the Harvard-Yale watch party on November 17 concluded that staying with Chopper's was appropriate, and Phil will negotiate detailed arrangements with them and with the Colorado Yale Association.

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Uses for excess cash: It was concluded that we should be investing in enticing more people (especially newcomers) to getting engaged (especially in networking events). The Mt. Harvard memento recognitions were endorsed, and it was felt that any large gathering should be considered an opportunity for recognition. Whether the H-Y game is such an event is left open; it would have to be coordinated with the Colorado Yale Association.

Steering Committee Meeting Logistics: We discussed alternatives to the Wednesday evening / Cherry Creek practice of the past three years. Weekends were quickly ruled out. No other evening seemed more compelling than Wednesday. Discussion of continuing at the Daniels Fund as opposed to a downtown location was inconclusive. For the remainder of 2012, we'll stick with our current regime.

The October meeting was moved from the 3rd to the 10th to accommodate the presidential debate.

Action Items:

1. Fred to talk with Steve about a “minutes book” and, more generally, about a strategy for preserving the Club’s key records and history.
2. Fred to talk with John Boak about recognition or other half-time activities at the H-Y watch party.
3. Fred to invite Ann Bender to co-ordinate the volunteer recognition event specifically and large events more generally.

Fred Ris
9 October 2012