



ROCKY MOUNTAIN HARVARD UNIVERSITY CLUB

Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 3, 2011
6:30 pm - 8:30 p.m.
Daniels Fund Building

In attendance:

Phil Weintraub - President

Fred Ris - Treasurer

Jeff Lakey - Secretary

Molly Thelosen - Communications - Facebook

Douglas Dinsmoor - Webmaster

John Griffin - Schools & Scholarship Committee Chair

Mike Durall - Candidate for Secretary

Babette Greenwell – Speakermaster

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 pm. Stories were shared regarding traffic issues in Denver.

2. July 6, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Approved unanimously on Fred motion and Douglas second. Corrections are needed to record the second location in Boulder for the Global Night of Networking. Corrections will be sent this week to the SC in an Updated July Minutes document.

3. October Steering Committee Meeting

The Daniels Fund Building is unavailable for a meeting in October on our regular schedule. Wednesday, September 28 has been reserved instead. Consent approval by the Steering Committee.

4. Events Committee

Monthly Speaker Series:

Andrew Romanoff will talk on August 15 – Thirty four people have RSVP'd so far. We are looking for 40 to feel confident that at least 25 will show, based on our experience with RSVP credibility for previous talks (Peter Hanson). Chris Gates is tentatively slated for a September event. He is involved with an institute for political leadership. In addition to our next email blast, Babette will send information to the Yale email list holder to include an announcement to the Yale Club for our Speaker Series. The idea of “branding” our series as a “Speaker Series” was impressed on the group.

2011 Summer Picnic:

The picnic will be Sunday evening, August 28 at the home of Mr. Ted Hallaby in Cherry Hills with catering by Brothers Barbeque. Sixteen adults and one child are registered so far. Several Steering Committee members volunteered to make invitation calls to the membership.

Alumni Recognition Dinner:

The event will be held at the Spire on September 17th. Details of the dinner were discussed including the nature of the Spire's promotional conditions on our holding our event in its space.

The plan at this point: The Spire will staff a table at the event where its literature on buying condo units can be found. Club members leading the ceremonies will soft pitch the Spire's presence. The club will send follow-up information by email to the attendees.

Concerns continued to be aired about protecting members' confidentiality. It was noted that the Spire might accrue a tax benefit by donating a room to the club, and that the club might facilitate its certification as a further enhancement to our using the Spire's facilities.

Some general principles and issues emerged: the club might consider incentivizing sponsorship with tax break certifications; there is perhaps a case-by-case issue in the long run regarding protection of confidentiality and of the club's sponsorship mechanisms. There was also discussion of Alumni Magnet progress, the current website, the blue "box" on the website, the Southern California club's website, business or interest listings on our website, acknowledgements granted to event hosts on our website, club opportunities to fundraise for scholarships contributions, and web advertising for fees.

5. Communications Committee

- A. *Facebook* – some informational spreadsheets will be available next month concerning advertising on Facebook. During the trial advertising period, Facebook "likes" climbed from 20 members to 80 members, suggesting a positive return on our investment of an initial amount of \$30. Details will be discussed at the September meeting.
- B. *LinkedIn & Twitter* – Douglas reported we now have perhaps 90 members in our LinkedIn group. Several requests to join our Twitter feed have been made, but Douglas thinks these are not credible based on responses sent to the requesters.
- C. *Alumni Magnet* – has not progressed beyond the test site. Douglas reiterated a request for assistance on copy writing for the site as requested previously. Graphics assistance that was supposedly available has not worked out based on responses (or lack thereof) from Cambridge staff. The test site and new email accounts will soon go live and will be updated in the future from online status as opposed to perfecting it offline first.

6. Schools Committee

On Friday, August 5 a pizza party will be held for incoming freshman. An appreciation event will be held in September. In late September trainers will be visiting from Cambridge. A training will be held in Cambridge in October, and there will be additional activity locally in October due to early admission applications work. John reported that in the future the committee intends to work on means to encourage disadvantaged candidates to apply. Forbes magazine rated Harvard as 8th nationally in its rankings. Stories concerning other college rankings were shared. There was discussion on the viability of requiring or encouraging interviewers to be club members.

7. CLIMB Scholarships

Steering Committee members will meet with CLIMB sponsors in September to discuss ways to control the club's exposure on costs to support scholarship recipients. Anna has been in contact with a possible new contact or host for CLIMB. Phil noted the advantages for the club of being involved with the program.

8. Treasurer's Report - July 1, 2011 through July 31, 2011, Proposed Budget and Dues Structure 2011-2012

Attachments are included by reference to the Google Groups files for the Steering Committee under the appropriate references.

There are currently 41 new or renewed members for the coming fiscal year. The budget proposal for 2011-2012 of \$12,500 was reviewed by Fred and the committee. Last year's revenue was \$10,000, so a possibility for fund shortages exists. Membership categories were reviewed. These are:

Annual Dues, Patron Level \$200

Annual Dues, Sponsor Level \$100

Annual Dues, Basic Level \$35 (moving to \$45 as of September 1)

There was discussion on the life memberships and the amounts under membership levels. Patron level will be revised to "\$200 and above." Basic dues of \$50 vs. \$45 were discussed and kept at \$45. Life memberships were not fully supported at this time. The idea of case-making for our use of funds and our alumni support mission was impressed on the group.

The Treasurer's report and budget were accepted unanimously on Jeff's move and John's second.

9. Membership Committee

Fred introduced and described a "Strawman Membership Committee Charter." There has been some dissent within the Steering Committee on the complexity of the draft charter. The draft is for consideration over the next month and members are asked to respond to Fred before or during the next meeting. Members generally expressed positive feelings regarding the effort and the document.

10. Succession of Club Officers

A slate of officers is in further development by Phil and Fred. The Steering Committee unanimously authorized Phil and Fred to select additional Trustees on a move by Douglas and a second by Molly. The slate shared at the July meeting follows:

President – Fred Ris

Treasurer – Diana Lawrence

Secretary – Mike Durall

Trustees (in alphabetical order):

Douglas Dinsmoor

Jeff Lakey

Mike Durall

Diana Lawrence

Eric Eversley

Fred Ris

John Griffin

Molly Thelosen

Peter Hanson

Phil Weintraub

Anna Jones

11. Thanks to Steering Committee / Presidential End of Term

Phil thanked the Steering Committee for all its progress over the past year. He feels proud and very positive about our work and contributions to the club during his term.

12. Dinner Volunteers for Upcoming Steering Committee Meetings

- A. September - Diana
- B. October - Phil
- C. November - TBD

13. Next regular Steering Committee Meeting:

Wednesday, September 7, 2011, 6:30 - 8:30pm Daniels Fund Building.

Requests have been made for room reservations at the Daniels Fund Building through the October meeting. Future meetings reserved include:

- September 7
- September 28 (dba the October meeting)

14. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm on a move by Douglas, a second by Molly, and a unanimous vote by the Steering Committee.