

Marlboro College Alumni Council
June 6, 2021
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Pamela Nye, Melanie Gottlieb, Kate Hollander, Gretchen Gerzina, CJ Churchill, Dagmawi Eminetu, Bess Pohelmann, Ellie Roark

Meeting called to order: 1:08 pm EST

Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved

Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved

Officer reports

Treasurer

- Mark is absent, Melanie reports in his stead.
- We now have a debit card, Mark will work on transitioning recurring expenses to this card.
- Mark and Melanie have been working on 501(c)(3) status

Clerk

- April meeting minutes now posted on the website. Sorry for delay.

Moderator

- We've managed to make an account with the IRS that will let us pay for 501(c)(3) application. Melanie has mostly filled out a draft application. We still need the articles of incorporation that were filed with the state of Vermont.
- We also need to update officers, but Randy George is the only person with the power to change those things and request the official certified articles of incorporation.
- Filing will cost ~\$700 and clean out our bank account, so we will need to fund raise to meet our operating costs.

Committee Reports:

Communications Committee

- Kate has been helping answer emails. The responses we got to our statement about the Seth Andrews arrest were overall very positive, and we got a lot of engagement from people who haven't been otherwise involved. Many were very positive about us (MCAA) as an organization, even if they felt negative about the college. Lots of appreciation that we exist. We received a single negative response.
- One insight Kate shares: the alumni community may be finite, but we don't need to have a scarcity mindset-- a lot of alums are not currently involved but can get involved. Also, there's a fair amount of excitement around the return of Potash Hill.

Resources

- A few weeks ago, Gretchen met with some Emerson development people and Marlboro Institute people. The subtext of the meeting was to feel out whether they will be trying to cultivate the Marlboro alumni community as donors. Meeting was very friendly. They do not have plans for reaching out to Marlboro alumni right now. They seem to recognize that there were some missteps in the whole merger process. They're happy to meet with

MCAC if we all want to hear more. Emerson will have a new president soon, so priorities may change around development at some point.

- Discussion of whether we're in favor of a full Council meeting with the Emerson development people.
 - Mixed feelings-- some in favor, some a little more wary. Getting to know each other matters, but we also need to be clear about our identity. The initial meeting showed that neutral ground exists and lines of communication are open. There's an important extent to which we represent something that is gone now and did not transfer to Emerson. We share a common donor base and a common creative base, and we're all interested in what was/is Marlboro College.
 - We could work as a sounding board for Emerson communications if they do intend to reach out in the future. We want the conversation to be ongoing, it may get easier the more we establish our own identity. We're in no rush to schedule another meeting at this moment.
- Bess has organized a meet and greet between the Marlboro Foundation folks and the Resources group. No clear agenda, we just want to make friendly contact. All these organizations have a piece of the Marlboro legacy-- we need to stay connected to them and build positive relationships.

Governance

- We're working on the constitution and bylaws-- we'll have some articles to review next time.
- The Facebook committee and the Potash Hill (PH) committee are both up and running.
 - They've requested access (transfer of the credit card payment) from the folks who preemptively bought domain names for PH.
 - A physical print magazine is too expensive, but a nice looking website with a pdf magazine is doable.
 - The PH committee would love to be in touch with resources folks about money for those projects. They also want to be in touch with the archives committee to discuss priority overlap.
- Some issues: how do we add new committee members? Kate is working on drafting committee article for bylaws right now. We want to keep committee structure as similar across the board as possible, but Potash Hill may have a slightly different workflow.
- We put together a bylaws-in-brief doc to use for incorporation if necessary. We have no idea what the bylaws (or articles of incorporation) that were filed with the state of VT look like, but there are some conditional questions on the 501(c)(3) application that need to be met by the bylaws, it seems. The bylaws-in-brief document may be helpful once we see what the original VT incorporation documents say.
- Motion to allow Mark and Melanie to move forward with incorporation docs however they see fit, including using this bylaws doc as needed, etc. Motion passes.

New business

- We agree to work on getting something on the website that lets people post class notes. We want to move away from facebook, to make it accessible to more members. Melanie will move forward with Erik to figure out how to add this functionality to the website.
- We sometimes get requests from members who want to get in touch with other people. We don't have permission to share anyone's data.
 - We need to give this serious consideration and plan how we're going to deal with this by the end of the year.

- In the meantime, we've been sending a note with the contact info of the searcher. Sometimes the person doesn't have an email on file, so Melanie has been sending a postcard! Her partner has offered to design a postcard to use for these occasions.
- In the future: can we add a "share my info with the rest of the membership" to the join form? Probably; we have some membership database issues to figure out.
- Pam has some digital photos she can send to Melanie for postcards (or other purposes!).
 - Can we post some on instagram? Dagmawi volunteers to post some instagram photos-- he and Pam will work out permissions/image sharing issues.

Open meeting session adjourned at 02:18pm EST.
Closed meeting session followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellie Roark
Clerk