

Marlboro College Alumni Council
May 2, 2021
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Pamela Nye, Melanie Gottlieb, Kate Hollander, Mark Genszler, Gretchen Gerzina, CJ Churchill, Bess Pohelmann
Not present: Ellie Roark, Dagmawi Eminetu

Meeting called to order at 1:09 PM EST

Approval of agenda

- Agenda approved with one amendment: Not going to discuss article 5 under new business; will table discussion until June

Approval of minutes

- Minutes approved without amendment (just editorial changes). Full document here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BFICpaPQHjKEss_fh_nU5t0ANC_XWohuo-HCE-JnHYU/edit?usp=sharing

Officer Reports

Treasurer - Mark

- Working with Randy George (previous treasurer) to learn more about the prior banking information, such as what checks have been written, where the money has come from, etc. Now have the previous bank records in hand.
- No money has been spent in the last month.
- He has spoken to Sarah Coffey regarding the 501c3 status and how best to handle the process, as she has set up a number of non-profits. She mentioned that 1) if the organization is granted the non-profit status, it becomes retroactive to the date of filing; 2) the possibility of donations does drive the conversations about getting the non-profit status, and 3) there is not necessarily an inherent benefit of becoming a non-profit if there are no large sums of money to contend with at the moment.
- There will be more reporting responsibilities with the non-profit status
- Why are we in favor of obtaining the non-profit status?
 - Having the 501c3 status would help to facilitate donations, fundraising, and those who are interested in including the association in their estate planning
 - Helps to show that the association is trying to operate in the realm of public good, and that the mission of the association will show that.

Clerk - Ellie

- No report

Moderator - Melanie

- 501c3 status-there are many pieces to the process that needs to be pulled together.
 - Now have the Tax ID in place

- We will need to file taxes in Vermont and federally (as part of process)
- We will need to create a financial statement
- We will need a skeleton by-laws
- Suggested to have an attorney to review before we file, but should be able to file without an attorney's assistance
- Hope we could get paperwork in during the next month
- Approval process not fast--depends on where the govt is in terms of processes and whether they have follow up questions
- No date as to when that will be available--but actively working on gathering pieces
- More to come--paperwork together, then filing should not be so hard
- Could potentially vote on wording of filing via email to keep things moving

Committee Reports:

Communications

- Email report: Kate
 - Requests on information about the status of the campus as well as requests for alumni contacts
 - Suggested to have a working group on policy, procedures, etc. about alumni contacts
 - Ideally would be an automated/self-serve system so would not have to be handled manually, such as a searchable directory (opt-in/opt-out) and "class notes" area-
 - Would be a valuable service for our members, as well as help with community building and fundraising efforts
- Upcoming communications: Nothing yet to send out to members, news contributions welcome

Resources

- No open meeting report

Governance

- Committee update
 - Facebook committee applications in; to start, the committee will consist of just alumni; may change that in the future
 - Potash Hill committee applications accepted, and Kate Hollender will serve as liaison
 - Kathleen Packer '01 offered her collection to the archives and would like to help create a digital archives for the MCAA community; Pamela Nye will reach out to find out more details about how she would like to help.
 - New committee members will be asked to submit a photo and short bio for website inclusion
- Update on the skeleton draft of bylaws for 501(c)3
 - Not ready for review--will try to have for June

Old Business

- Vote: Revised Articles 1, 3, 4 (5 min)
 - Voted on with changes here:
 - No separate classes of members, all will be able to vote
 - Added clause to allow for the Council to have the right to create a dues schedule in the future if that becomes needed

New Business

- Discussion: Bylaws, Article 5 (Committees): tabled until June meeting

Open meeting session adjourned at 1:58 EST

Closed meeting session followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Nye

Acting Clerk for May meeting in lieu of Ellie Roark