

CMG Board Meeting Minutes

Lambda Players Theatre

Sacramento, CA

Jan. 16, 2010

CMG Executive Board Members:

Joe Wagenhofer, President; Ben-Andy Hein, Vice-President; Mohabee Serrano (Milton Markey), Secretary; Dave Clark, Treasurer.

Appointed Board Members:

Lee Usher, Tech. Advisor; Barry Shoenfeld, Communications Director; Christopher Johnson, Development Director; Ed Wahl, Arts Director; Jim Rubyianes, Webmaster; Mohabee Serrano, Archivist and Historian.

Representatives:

Robert Burnham, 67th CMG; Eric Anderson, 68th CMG; Phillip Bouden, 69th CMG; Barry Shoenfeld, EC-LA; Richard Farshler, EC-SAC; Jamie Simmons, EC-DC; Drew Blanchar, EC-BA;

Visitors:

Jamie Kravitz (Website Revision Comm.), Ben (via telephone), Zachary Zoah, Jason Jenn, Trevor Eyster, Pete Marcoccia, Versil Mitchell, Bill Otton, Al-Binky Hoch; Frank Rothacker, Mike Fahy,

OLD BUSINESS

Approve Minutes of the November 27, 2009 Meeting (Joe Wagenhofer Passed Unanimously, with Dave Clark's amendment noted.

Treasurer's Report (Dave Clark)

Accept 2010 Budget, with noted additions: 12-Yes; 0-No; 1 Abstain.

Dave presented two separate spread sheets; one containing the comparisons of items budgeted for the past year, and what was actually spent, and another containing the proposed budget. Dave said the financial figures of 2009 were good, despite the recessionary conditions many CMG men were facing.

Additions to the budget included adding a line item for the Director of Development, and also increasing the budget for procuring a new online registration system. There may be a need for software and other items related to the website revision, but these will fall under "special projects," and will be used for that purpose, as is needed.

Planning Committee Budgets (Dave Clark)

Only one Planning Committee submitted a budget at this meeting: the 68th CMG. With little discussion, the Board passed this budget unanimously.

Affirmation and Selection of Appointed Board Members

With the exception of the Director of Development and the Outreach Director, all of the incumbent appointed Board Members were approved, for continued service through January, 2011.

The Board agreed to table replacing the now-vacant Outreach Director's position, pending the results of a proposal to discontinue the position, as an appointed seat with the Board, and instead, allow the Director of Communications to appoint an Outreach Director, who will be part of the Communications Committee. This proposal will be considered at the Member's Meeting, to be held Sunday.

Christopher Johnson volunteered to become the Director of Development, which was approved unanimously by the Board.

Web Committee Update

Website Revision Report (Barry and Jamie Kravitz)

Jamie presented a slide show, which showed several pages of the revised CMG website. Jamie's presentation included a report derived from one year's worth of work by himself, Ben, and Jim Rubyianes, along with Barry. The date for the finished product will be in late February, which was changed from the January start date, due to difficulties and technical needs that are often routine during a major changeover from an old website to a new one.

It was agreed that before the new web pages are released to the public, the Board will be appraised, to visit the site, and make suggestions to the Website Committee, which the committee will accept, but not necessarily act upon. Once the website has gone through the general Board approval, and changes have been made, the Executive Board Members will be invited to review the website, and make the final approval.

Discussion of this report included concern that the photos on the "man blocks" contain photos that reasonably represent the myriad of men who attend CMG's. Jamie pointed out that the photos on the "beta" version of the website update weren't edited, partially due to the lack of a CMG website editor. Ben added that there were few photos to begin with, and more will be added before the website is tried by the Board, in February. Barry said that the Website Committee will edit the photos, and will lean towards selecting fewer questionable photos of CMG attendees.

Jamie said that Phase One is about 78% complete, and the remainder of work is mostly technical in nature. He presented the Phase Two of the website revision, but it's unlikely that volunteers will come forward to complete this phase of the revision, since it's more time-consuming, and those who typically revise websites at this stage earn a salary for doing this. He estimated that it might cost over \$10,000 to accomplish Phase Two.

CMG Online Registration System (Ben-Andy)

Proposal: Utilize “Ennect Event” System for a full year (6 uses), at \$1587. 11-Yes, 1-No, 3-Abstain

Ben-Andy reported that the Registration System Committee, which he, Barry, and Dave Clark were members, scouted several different online registration systems, and the one company, which has been in this business for 21 years, was chosen by the committee.

There were a number of advantages and disadvantages. Of the advantages, Ben-Andy liked the ease of filling out the forms, and he set up a sample trial, using data from the 66th CMG, and Barry entered a trial form, which was easy to navigate and to register with. The disadvantage is that each use will fill out a spreadsheet, but no data will be saved on the system, nor can the data from one Gathering be shared with data from a second Gathering.

The Board considered the number of uses the CMG might use this system in a year, and six (three Gatherings, the Harbin Retreat, the Spritual Retreat, and the Annual Business Meeting (2011), will make use of this system in 2010. It was agreed that a full year was needed, to try out such a registration system, and to determine if this will work with the CMG’s needs.

PayPal Service Charge (Ben-Andy)

Proposed: The users (CMG attendees) will pay the PayPal transaction fee. Approved unanimously.

Ben Andy said that the credit card transaction fee needs to be borne by the user of Paypal, and not the CMG. The number of voluntary donations to defray the transaction costs have dropped. Dave Clark noted that the interest rate for the PayPal savings account has dropped considerably, too. Therefore, the ~2.4% transaction fee needs to be added to the amount a user pays. According to Ben-Andy, there is a method of doing this, by resetting the back end of our Paypal interface.

Mentor Men Update (Barry)

The Mentor Men Committee, has been disbanded.

Legal Responsibility of the CMG, as it applies to Alcohol (Ben-Andy)

(Report to be made at the next Board Meeting).

Ben-Andy is concerned that the CMG might become liable for any damages, by drunk attendees, at events in which alcohol is allowed. Since this is a legal question, more time is needed to determine whether the CMG can be held liable, and if so, determine whether we need to insure ourselves for such a liability, or simply not hold events where alcohol is served.

Five Bold Moves—Update (Barry)

Champions for five areas that the CMG Board determined needed leaders are:

--Leadership: Chuck Allen
--Board Structure (Rewrite ByLaws): Barry
--Communications: Ben-Andy
--Fun: Jason Jenn
--Tribe: EC-BA

NEW BUSINESS

Info Sought: Creating a New San Jose Local Events Committee (Eric Anderson)

Eric asked the Board for help to form an LEC in San Jose. It was suggested that those wanting to form this LEC should consult with LEC-BA, for tips and suggestions. It was also noted that a new LEC can hold events at any time, and as the fledgling group evolves over a year's time, it can then decide to propose a budget, in order for the Board to formally recognize it.

Board Retreat in 2010 (Barry)

A second annual retreat will be held in the North, and details will be determined by Barry and the LEC-BA. The board decided to hold its annual retreat, beginning in 2010, which is not on the same weekend as a Gathering, or another conflicting CMG event. July is considered a good month for doing this. Jerry, the outside leader who conducted the 2009 Board Retreat, has volunteered to serve the CMG in the coming years, depending on whether she's available when we hold the retreat.

Spirituality Retreat (Barry)

Barry invited the Board to the Spirituality Retreat, which is destined to become an annual LEC-LA event. This year, the Retreat occurs over the same weekend as the Harbin Hot Springs event, in the north. There was a scheduling conflict with the camp, located in Malibu (?), which led to two leading CMG events being held simultaneously. The Spirituality retreat is unlike a Gathering. There is a looser structure, and attendees are encouraged to enjoy a simple schedule of activities.

CMG Cares (Barry)

Barry passed two documents, one of which was for a charity the EC-LA supports, for an LGBT youth center, and the other, an AARP brochure for Create The Good Network. These were suggestions for CMG involvement in contributing to outside charities.

Concern was raised, about whether the CMG needs to help CMG brothers who are in need of help, financially or with finding a new home, etc. Barry suggested that the CMG engage in a three-tiered approach, which will include CMG's needs, then the outreach to outside groups—it can be done with simultaneous outreach. The Director of Development will form a committee that will look into these possibilities.

Another concern is that the charities are related to legitimate LGBT charities, and not general public charities, which might fund gay hatred or abuse. The Director of Development will check into the charities to see that they help those in need, in the LGBT community.

Next Meeting: to be announced, in late February. Joe will send out a message with possible dates and times. This will be a teleconference meeting.

Future meetings: The Board will meet at each of the three Gatherings held during 2010, and via two teleconferences. Exact dates and times are to be determined.

Adjournment—This meeting was adjourned 7:40 PM.