

CMG Board Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2009
Held at Camp Shalom, Malibu, CA

In attendance:

CMG Board Members:

Mohabee (Milton Markey), Ben-Andy Hein, Bob Ames, Drew Blanchar, Barry Schoenfeld, Jim Ruboyiannes, Michael Bell, Rich Farshler, Joe Wagenhofer, Ed Wahl, Michael Varner, Dave Clark, Buzz Young

Visitors:

John Richards, Frank Rothacker, Al-Binky Hoch, Robert Bettinger, Jason Wittman, Chuck Allen, David Pizarro, Mark Wilson

Absent: Christopher Johnson, Lee Usher

Opening:

Barry read a short welcoming message, from the 64th CMG Planners.

Old Business and Reports

Approval of the April 5 Board Meeting Minutes (Mohabee)

Ed Wahl and Michael Bell seconded—Approved unanimously, and without amendment.

Treasurer's Report (Dave Clark)

Dave passed around a report to those in attendance. There are expenses that were budgeted at the 2009 JBM Board Meeting. According to Dave, most of the money in this budget has not been used, which is typical at this time of year.

Status of Measures Passed at Board Meetings (Mohabee)

A quick review of what policies the Board can pass, according to the CMG ByLaws. According to the ByLaws, any policy which the Board considers at a regular Board meeting, providing that it not cover the makeup of the Board, or the number of Directors, or alter the Articles of Incorporation, can become policy of the CMG statewide. A Board meeting in which an amendment to the ByLaws is proposed, must be announced as a "ByLaws Change Meeting," and this announcement is to be posted no later than 30 days prior to the meeting date. This meeting is not a ByLaws Change Meeting.

Job Description Update (Joe Wagenhofer)

Joe will have the Board Officer job descriptions ready by 2010; he'll keep the Board apprised of his progress, at the next meeting.

Gathering Registration Process Update (Ben-Andy Hein, Barry Schoenfeld)

Activa System update (Ben-Andy): Jace, Ed, and Lamar, 64th CMG Planners, who were not present, have confirmed that the system works, but it's expensive to operate, and is paid for by the attendees. Ben-Andy thinks the same number of people who had problems

with the old system is equal or quite close, to the number of men who had problems with Activa.

Barry says that this isn't the only system that the CMG can consider. Barry and the CMG Registrars will review the system, and will make further recommendations. Dave thought that there were no problems with the cash flow, on the new system. Michael Bell thinks other possibilities need to be examined. Barry says there were no errors related to Activa's process. Rich says there were a large amount of service charges--\$32—which discouraged him from paying, using the system. In a later comment, Barry says the total fees per attendee computed to be \$10/person, plus any extra charges for credit card usage. Ben-Andy says the database management is difficult. This process will be further reviewed. The 65th CMG Planners chose to register via an "in house" system; hence, Activa will not be used for the Summer, 2009 Gathering.

Logo Registration/Trademark Update (Barry)

The Board shall approve the new logo and register the trademark, as was presented at a previous Board Meeting.

Passed Unanimously

Website Update (Barry, Jim Ruboyiannes)

Barry says email system is working well; "Binky's List" is also up and running. Enotify is also operating well. Enotify will soon be the responsibility of the EC's—a meeting will be held during the 64th CMG, for all EC Reps, in which the process of posting Enotify messages will be taught.

Visibility Update (Joe)

It is strongly suggested that the CMG EC and PCs are encouraged to select a cause or issue to do fundraising for and to create brand recognition. This is done on an annual basis.

EC-LA will support GALAA (Gay and Lesbian Allied Administrators). Other Planning Committees will report their progress in this program, at later meetings.

EC Representative Congress (Michael Bell)

The first EC "Congress" will convene Saturday, during one of the workshop sessions, at the 64th CMG. This meeting will allow free flow of information from one EC to other EC's, so that everyone is "on the same page," and also allows new ideas to be shared, and then re-communicated back to each local EC. Non-EC visitors will be encouraged to attend and share their ideas.

Subcommittee Budget Policy (Dave Clark)

Discuss a policy to allow committees, other than event committees and planning committees, to spend money with approval of the Treasurer and board liaison or board officers. This assures that the subcommittees will be authorized to spend money that was authorized by the Board, or the Members at a JBM.

Michael moves and Ben-Andy seconds. *Vote: unanimously passes.*

San Diego Planning Committee Volunteers (Michael Varner)

Michael Varnen says he's still working on a list of volunteer jobs, required to plan and create the 66th CMG. The volunteers will be solicited via Enotify. Michael, Milo and an unnamed newcomer to the CMG, will be the sole "planners" for this Gathering. All other volunteers will be supervised by the Planners, but will perform their tasks independently. This "centralized" planning set-up eliminates monthly meetings, and saves time. Michael Bell is concerned that there's no "new blood" in this PC, and that the Planning Committee needs to bring newcomers to the organization. Michael V. says the volunteers who do the work can be newcomers to the CMG planning process.

Other San Diego Notes:

--66th CMG will occur at Camp Pathfinder, over Thanksgiving Weekend.

--EC-SD will sponsor a booth at San Diego Pride, in July.

A newcomer to the 64th CMG, Robert Bettinger, volunteered to help the 66th CMG Planners to solicit volunteers, and also to help the statewide organization solve its volunteer-seeking, too.

CMG Mentoring Committee (Buzz Young)

Buzz says Mentor Men has a Mentoring Booth at the 64th CMG, and the group worked with the 64th Planners both individually and as a group, to help bring together mentoring men. More activities include workshops in Los Angeles, and assistance to the forthcoming Planning Committees for 2009.

Motion: A new CMG Board-recognized committee, called the CMG Mentoring Committee, will be formed, to further mentoring during the Gatherings. There are no expenses for 2009, related to this committee. This will be a statewide committee, and not an LA-local committee. A Board Rep., will be appointed by this committee. *Vote not taken—no action.*

Proposal (Ben-Andy): The CMG Board thanks and commends the Mentor Men's committee for their accomplishments to this date. The Board offers that Ben-Andy Hein will confer with the committee, providing that the committee approves Ben-Andy to do this, to help make a presentation to the CMG Board in September. This presentation may include a budget. The presentation will include how the committee will serve the state, and how it helps the Planners of all statewide committees. Board Representation can be brought up at the 2010 JBM. *Vote: 12-Yes; 1-No. This proposal passes.*

There was considerable discussion about this matter, which led to the Proposal, above. Here are the discussion notes:

Barry suggests that one officer from the CMG Board be appointed, to guide this committee. Jim suggests forming this as a "sub-committee," and allowing the group time to grow. Rich favors the sub-committee possibility. Buzz wants this committee to be

empowered by the Board, and not recognized as a sub-committee. The time is now to set up this committee, according to Buzz.

According to the CMG ByLaws, a new Board officer must be approved at a January Business Meeting; the Board cannot increase the size of its membership (Mohabee).

Michael Varnen says that the idea and the passion are there, but the purpose of the group is nebulous. Ben-Andy says he could serve as the Board Liaison. Dave agrees with Michael V., that more information and operating procedures are needed, before he'll support the committee's recognition by the Board. Michael Bell says it needs to be a statewide committee, and there needs to be assurance that no volunteer burnout will occur. "LA needs to move out to other parts of the state," Michael added. Barry says the first meeting cost nothing, and that he supports the notion that more info is needed. Jim says that the sub-committee addresses growth. He suggests that the Director of Development or Director of Communications oversee the development of this committee.

Joe: The Board supports and appreciates Buzz's efforts; and that Ben-Andy will facilitate further evolution; the committee can then come forth with a formal clear proposal about what they want to consider.

2009 CMG Board Retreat

Travel Assistance (Dave Clark): The Board Treasurer will work with interested Board Members and interested visitors, who want to be reimbursed for travel to the 2009 Board Retreat, July 26, 2009. *Vote: Passes Unanimously.*

Purpose of the Meeting (Barry): to talk about the Board's structure and goals. A Pro Bono facilitator will lead this one-day conference.

Concerns: the structure of this organization needs to be reviewed.

To preview the community building that the CMG does.

How to re-structure our operations?

Revisiting our goals first, then our structure will be considered.

Leadership Academy: a resource for Planners, to lead in the future.

Overnight Accommodations: Dave Clark has room for overnight attendees.

Women at CMG Events (Joe)

Legally, the CMG cannot deny admission to women. Women can be discouraged from attending, but cannot be barred from coming to a CMG.

----- **New Business** -----

Creating a CMG BOD Scholarship Fund (Christopher)

Christopher was not present. This issue is tabled to the next Board Meeting. Dave Clark requests that the PC Treasurers or officers who disbursed financial assistance be prepared to provide accurate figures about the past year's disbursements.

Transferring Excess PC Funds To Local Or Statewide EC's (Joe)

This matter was in “discussion” mode only—a proposal to the Board is forthcoming, by Board Treasurer, Dave Clark.

Discussion Notes:

Ben-Andy says that PC accounting ends at the 90-day deadline. An EC has no deadline. There is no policy that covers such transfers. A transfer was made last year, between a PC and EC—with the EC “holding” the funds, but the excess was then transferred back to the next PC of the same season.

Dave: solution—10% goes to the Board; the remainder goes to a reserve account, to draw upon, for upcoming Gatherings. Dave will make a formal proposal about this, at a future Board Meeting.

Michael Bell: excellent idea, to send funds to EC's; this guarantees that the Board will have no more than 10% of excess. The remainder of the excess is to be turned over to the local EC's, for outreach.

Barry: A wonderful idea for the treasurer to support this.

Jim: The PC and EC of San Francisco and Sacramento have an “abundance of money” from the SF Pride effort. The SF Pride money must be used as a “restricted donation,” to be used for financial assistance in the North, or for SF area efforts only. There needs to be specific designations for the sources of restricted income.

Ed: is in favor of distributing the funds.

Buzz: This measure would be used for less-wealthy PC's.

Mohabee: Isn't certain whether to favor a statewide or a local “funding pot.”

Ben-Andy: Is aware of the “Bad Board Guys” attitude, which is somewhat subversive. Where the money comes and where it goes needs to be established.

Drew: EC's help fund scholarships for attendees of the PC's. Favors returning the excess to the Board.

Dave: As Treasurer, Dave says there is no carry-over without representation. Dave will provide a proposal for a new operating policy. Just about everything discussed can be done.

Michael Bell: The only EC that has no Planning Committee assistance is EC-DC. He thinks that the Treasurer needs to have authority to allow money to be re-issued to a needy EC or PC, either statewide or local.

Pride Festival Booths-2009 (Michael Bell)

Proposal: The Director of Outreach may determine how the 2009 Pride Festival Booths are funded, and how the \$4500 is allocated, to each EC. The Director of Outreach is responsible for the accounting of the \$4500, and must file a final report with the Board Treasurer. *Passes Unanimously.*

Discussion Notes:

There will be enough time from float making to EC Festival booths. It's important that the booths be staffed by volunteers who "sell" the CMG. How much do we allocate to each EC, for Pride disbursements? There is already \$4500 to do this, for outreach.

Michael wants an equitable provision, so that the EC's partially fund the costs of this form of publicity. Literature: what do we use? A design is needed, for brochures.

--Ben-Andy: we have a stellar opportunity to represent the CMG in the Bay Area. Spend the money.

--Michael V: EC-SD pays ½ of the cost, as a matter of past operations.

--Mohabee: agrees with this proposal, and that the SF area needs funding for the three Pride Festivals in the Bay Area.

--Buzz: Agrees with the proposal.

--Ed: CMG literature needs to have a Spanish-language translation.

--Rich: Sac. Pride booth is \$250—says EC-Sacramento wants a full payment!

--Jim: Cities with Latino population need to have a Spanish-speaking booth volunteer. Other Pride outreach efforts need to be considered, such as Ebony Pride and Latino Pride.

--Barry: Agrees that Director of Outreach can allocate the funds. EC Congress will talk about a design for a business card.

--Michael: will make an effort at EC Congress meeting, for brochures and business cards.

Alcohol Policy/Insurance Concerns (Michael Bell)

Proposal: A "rider" must be purchased, from the CMG insurer, to cover an event in which alcohol is served, or made available, to attendees. Binky's List sponsors need to provide insurance for their events, when and where alcohol is served or made available.

Vote: 12-Yes; 0-No; 1-Abstain. This motion passes.

Discussion Notes:

Joe: when alcohol is served at a CMG event or Gathering, a rider needs to be made with CMG insurance, to cover liability. Some EC's are considering events with alcohol—as long as the alcohol is not "served." A rider for the insurance costs \$1,000.

Letter to the LA Unified School District (Michael Bell)

—Steven and Versil are the YCMG reps, for Los Angeles

--Michael wants to touch bases with the "25 and Over" Committee; This is also applicable for the statewide EC's, though it will be a local matter for the EC-LA.

--"Anal Radiance" workshop announcement prompted the LA Unified School District to write a letter to the CMG Outreach Director, questioning the CMG's responsibility in its

outreach to young men, and the possibility of younger, under aged people reading the message.

--Michael read a letter he's sending as a response to LA-USD's concerns. The text of this message is available in the Appendix to these Minutes.

PC and EC Asset Inventory, To Be Shared Statewide (Drew Blanchar)

Drew is concerned that duplicate items may be held in the storage facilities in N. and S. California. He thinks that money could be saved, if duplicate items, particularly sound and lighting apparatus, and electronic items, were shared amongst the Planning Committees.

Though no formal proposal was made, Drew was reminded that a policy concerning annual inventory taking, is already in effect. Planning Committees are strongly recommended to make a list of items that are in their respective storage units, and make this list available to the CMG Director of Communications.

Next Meeting

The next CMG Board Meeting will be held prior to the 65th CMG, at Camp Newman. The date, time, and exact location will be announced. Plans for the Board to meet at the 66th CMG, in November, are also forthcoming.

Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned, by consensus, at 4:49 PM, PST.