

MINNESOTA QUILTERS BOD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, MARCH 18, 2008
Meeting held at MQ Office, Textile Center, Minneapolis, MN

Attending: Linda Wines, Mary Brandt, Debbie Craig, Kathie Simon Frank, Paula Gaboury, Linda Lysdahl, Becky McPeek, Miki Peine, Patty Von Arx, Char Wenger, and Cindy Wilson, Kathleen Winters. **Absent:** Pam Ronan, Sue Sandager

Linda Wines called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
She then circulated the volunteer accounting form so everyone could record their volunteer hours.

Roll Call and Minutes

Kathie Simon Frank called the roll. She then offered the February minutes for corrections and approval. The minutes were corrected. Mary Brandt then moved to accept the corrected February minutes. Patty Von Arx seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report (Miki Peine)

This was Miki Peine's first full Board meeting as the new Treasurer, so everyone introduced themselves by name and office.

Miki Peine reported that the Finance Committee is looking for a Member-at-large. An article will be in the next newsletter asking interested people to identify themselves.

As of this meeting, those who are eligible to sign checks for the organization are Miki Peine, Treasurer; Linda Wines, President; and Mary Brandt, President Elect. Kathie Simon Frank, Secretary, and Paula Gaboury, Past President, were removed as check signers.

Those eligible to charge on the MQ credit card include Linda Wines, President; Mary Brandt, President Elect; Miki Peine, Treasurer; Becky McPeek, Office Manager; Debbie Craig, Education Co-Chair; and Linda Lysdahl, Show Coordinator. Gail Hanson (2006-7 Past President) was removed as a signer. Miki Peine will ask those authorized to use the MQ charge card to sign a contract stating that they will only use the card for authorized purposes.

Miki Peine also reported that she would like the Finance Committee to create an investment policy for the organization. She noted that MQ has a large amount of money in the checking account, so the Financial Committee should take a look at how some of that money might be invested. She also would like the Board of Directors to create a budget during June and July. It would be brought to the August Board meeting for discussion, voted on in September, and be in effect at the start of the new fiscal year in October 2008. The incoming Board, whose first meeting will be in October 2008, would also need to vote to accept the 2008-9 budget.

The Finance Committee will make a preliminary pass at developing a Budget for 2008-9.

The Finance Committee is changing its meeting schedule. In the future, it will meet one week before the Board meeting so that it can bring business to the Board. The next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 15th.

Linda Lysdahl questioned the sponsorship income item in the current budget: \$57,000. She had always understood her expected income to be \$40,000. Becky McPeek will check on where the new number came from.

Operations Committee Report (Char Wenger)

Char Wenger related that Sue Sandager has identified a Volunteer Coordinator. Char was unsure of the person's name. The Volunteer Coordinator is a new year-round position. Discussion followed about where this position should be located. It will become a Standing Committee.

MOTION: Char Wenger moved that the Volunteer Coordinator be an off-Board position reporting to the Operations Directors. Mary Brandt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

When she is provided with it, Kathie Simon Frank will add the new Volunteer Coordinator's name and contact information to the list of Board members and Committee chairs.

Linda Wines will add the Volunteer Coordinator to the website listing of standing committee chairs and will make sure her membership is renewed when memberships come due, as is always done with positions on the Board and standing committees. These memberships get renewed before the tenure of the commitment is complete. The policy that drives this practice requires a one-year commitment from the person serving. People governed by this policy include all those serving on the Board of Directors as well as those who serve on the planning committee for the show (whose memberships are renewed at the *end* of their tenure at the close of that year's show).

Char Wenger distributed the revised quilt stand policy. Item #3 was added for clarification: "The quilt stands MAY NOT be used by members at large for anything other than circumstances cited above." Cindy Wilson asked whether there should be a single person through whom quilt stands are checked in and out. The Operations Director will serve as that person. She will notify the day and evening meeting coordinators and Education Directors of requests so they can make sure the quilt stand is available at the start of the meeting and returned at the end of the meeting.

MOTION: Patty Von Arx moved to accept the revised Quilt Stand Policy. Cindy Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Communications Committee Report (Cindy Wilson)

Cindy Wilson reported that she and Pam Ronan have been continuing to work on MemberClicks to make sure it is working properly. Cindy Wilson said that people have been responding to the parking survey on-line.

At this point in the meeting, Jean McMahon, Textile Center (TCM) representative, arrived to talk with the BOD about parking issues in the neighborhood. She assured the BOD that our concerns are being heard by the TCM Board. They have heard from people in other guilds, also, about the difficult parking situation around the Center. She told us where the lots are where TCM visitors can park and agreed to get a map to MQ so that those locations can be publicized. She was interested to hear about the results of the MQ parking survey on MemberClicks. She said she would get back to the BOD with more information (see her report at the end of these minutes). And, finally, she asked what value MQ members would put on parking (how much would people be willing to pay to park when coming to MQ meetings and other events). Parking is going to be an ongoing discussion in which MQ as well as other guilds will take part.

Education Committee Report (Patty Von Arx and Debbie Craig)

McGregor is the vendor that the Fall Getaway committee has chosen for Fall 2008.

President-Elect Report (Mary Brandt)

The BOD considered the applicants for the Doreen Speckmann scholarship and chose, by written ballot, Cheryl Hudson of Rochester, MN. Mary Brandt will notify her. During the 2008 show banquet, Mary Brandt will introduce Cheryl Hudson.

Strategic and Long-Range Planning: the BOD was asked to review a summary of goals that were generated at the last Strategic and Long-Range Planning session several years ago. Board members are asked to state which parts of that plan still need attention. The basic question that needs an answer is: What is Minnesota Quilters and where are we going as an organization?

The BOD is asked to send their responses to Mary Brandt and Linda Wines. Some of the considerations include:

How do we encourage people to join MQ and how do we get members to renew memberships?

The lease with the Textile Center is in effect until September 2011 and it has no terminating clause—is this a problem? Is this something we want to address with TCM?

Do we want to make changes in the organization? if so, what kind of changes? are these feasible? Based on the comments they get back from Board members, Mary Brandt and Linda Wines will begin to plan for another Strategic Planning session if that seems necessary.

Past President Report (Paula Gaboury)

Paula Gaboury reported that the nominating committee has a full slate to present to the membership for action at the annual meeting in June.

2008 Show Chairs Report (Kathleen Winters)

Kathleen Winters presented Pam Ronan's report about successful registration for the 2008 Show and Conference in Rochester, MN.

Show Coordinator Report (Linda Lysdahl)

Linda Lysdahl reported that there is room for one more vendor at the show.

Kathleen Winters asked whether awards of Honorable Mention would be given when the challenge quilts are judged in June. She also asked for clarification about giving Honorable Mention to challenge quilt entries.

Office Manager Report (Becky McPeek)

Becky McPeek reported that a representative of Better Homes and Gardens approached her regarding the book: *Pink Quilts for Hope* and asked if she wanted to order some. They retail at \$34.95, but the offer to us is half that--\$17.95 for a minimum of six books ordered. The deadline to decide is April 15th. The BOD directed Becky McPeek to order six copies, donate one to the Textile Center library and give the remaining five as door prizes for meetings, the upcoming show in June, and other MQ events.

Other Business

Becky McPeek reported that when members join MQ, she sends them a packet that includes: their new membership card, a letter of welcome, a copy of the most recent newsletter, a postcard showing a picture of the raffle quilt, and a copy of the show booklet. It was suggested that she include some little perks in the packet as well—something like a magnet or a pen.

Linda Wines said that a laptop computer will be available at the 2008 Show BOD table so visitors to the show can join as new members of Minnesota Quilters. Visitors to the show will also be asked to respond to the MQ poll. Should we give those people some kind of token gift in exchange for filling out a poll that would ask about several issues? The Quilt on a Stick exhibit will be located near the MQ Board table.

BOD members are asked to think of questions to include in the poll. Also, Mary Brandt asked everyone to consider the question of memberships for out-state members—what do we offer people who live significantly outside the Metro area? These incentives might encourage people to join even though they can't participate in the every-day life of the organization.

Linda Wines adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm.

The next BOD meeting is Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 6:30 pm with dinner beforehand beginning at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Simon Frank

27 March 2008

Notes from Jean McMahon, Textile Center Representative, from the MQ Board Meeting 3/18/08, e-mailed to the TCM Board and copied to the MQ BOD on 3/19/08

The Minnesota Quilters receives many complaints about parking issues at the Textile Center. The complaints include allowing memberships to lapse due to lack of parking. MQ has placed a parking survey on their website. As of 3/16, the total responses were approximately 150. 39% of the responses cited parking issues/frustrations.

To simplify the results, 100 of the 150 responses said members were willing to pay for parking under \$3.

We reviewed many of the MQ parking needs. They are listed below.

1. Monthly Thursday night meetings
2. Monthly Saturday morning meetings
3. Monthly show committee meetings on Saturday 8-12:00 pm
4. Friday workshops 9-4:00

We talked about these additional parking issues.

- Crossing University is dangerous, even worse now that the 35W bridge is gone
- Parking has to be close by in order to bring project supplies, machines, etc.
- The Textile Mobile blocks view of parking spaces – can't tell if any are available – and takes up a space.
- Snow piles take up space behind building.
- MQ expects adequate parking based on their agreement to lease from the Textile Center.

These possible short term solutions were identified to begin mitigating parking problems.

- Clear snow out of handicapped parking – we're down to one spot. Many members have handicap tags.
- Clear snow from other existing parking to regain as much parking as possible
- Remove the Textile Mobile from the parking lot to gain the extra parking and improve visibility – currently it blocks the view of other parking and causes traffic problems during monthly meetings.
- Communicate the location of the additional parking that the Textile Center is contracting now with maps, website, etc.
- Ask Pratt school for temporary parking contract for certain times until other options become available.
- Revisit the question to the neighborhood board about putting in a stop light – the additional traffic may be a compelling reason to do this now.
- Ask the city why there are 1 hour parking restrictions on the south side of University and 2 hour parking restrictions on the north side of university on the weekends? Could these restrictions be changed to week days only?

Long term dream parking vision

- Space to accommodate 50-100 MQ members for meetings
- Within 1 block of the Textile Center
- Ability to drop off supplies, etc and park close by
- Willing to pay a small additional amount for this parking

Open questions

- What are MQ parking needs for the next 5-7 years?
- How much is additional parking worth to the Minnesota Quilters
- What are the funding options for parking: memberships, additional charges for parking added to workshops? Other?