OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monday, February 6, 2012


Meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM

SPECIAL GUEST  Joe Madelena addressed the Board in response to questions raised at previous Board meetings about OSHER not receiving interest on account #3662, currently at $32,919.95. Joe explained that it is set up as an operating account rather than an interest bearing account. As an endowment, we can only use the principal. He stated that we do add to the account occasionally, for example the Spring Appeal, which generated $2,500. Kim likened the account to a rainy day fund. Phil wondered if the money could be put in a regular interest bearing account. Kim stated that OSHER is an extension of the university and therefore not an independent entity, or a 501.3c. The Board thanked Joe for this clarification.

I. MINUTES  Minutes of the January 9th, 2012 Board meeting were filed as distributed

II. TREASURER’S REPORT  None

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

   e. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
      Dale Olen spoke to the Board about the Earth Wisdom SIG
         . Has been meeting for two years on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at noon for one and a half hours
         . Average number of attendees is ten
. Discussions are stimulating, and range from earth science, the environment, ethics and nature to issues of change, the individual vs government policies, and environmental ethics
. Much is being written about the power of wealth and its impact on the people; Dale hopes to lead the group in reading some of the books addressing this issue
. Suggestion from a Board member to have an actual 5 to 6 session course, possibly using a round table approach. Dale and Kim will work on developing the concept and then pass it on to the Program Committee

a. MEMBERSHIP
. Marketing subcommittee has met and is developing strategies for outreach by giving presentations to various organizations about OSHER
. Discussion about scheduling a few committee reports at each of our social events. An alternative which was more appealing to the Board is to plan several brief committee summaries at the prospective members meetings
. Eight new members attended the last orientation. Numerous program suggestions were offered. The new form designed by Jenny was used at the meeting, and the results will be compiled and distributed to the Program committee
. Next new member orientations are scheduled for March 14th and May 9th; next prospective member meeting will be Saturday, April 14th
. Membership total as of the end of December was 698; by the end of February it should be well over 700. There were 8 non-renewals, primarily due to people moving away from Milwaukee

b. LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT
. Plans are moving forward for a conference tentatively entitled OPEN NEW DOORS, to take place September 12th, 2012
. Web site will be updated to include the Brainstorming Session
. The language in the by-laws re: term limits was clarified; each committee chair and co-chair will serve for one year, with the possibility
of extension. The language does not apply to committee members. The by-laws would need to be changed if term limits are to be implemented. The lack of a signed agreement between OSHER and the School of Continuing Education has not been resolved. Kim assured the Board that he will address the issue.

C. PROGRAM COMMITTEE

. Feedback regarding this semester’s course offerings has been very positive

. Programs have started; so far enrollment is adequate; it is up to presenter to recommend cancellation if class enrollment is not sufficient

. Kim showed a graph that tracked the relative spike in enrollment over the last several years

. Discussion ensued about the possibility of repeating some of the sessions, particularly POTPOURRI (The Feb 6th session had 57!) One suggestion is to repeat within the same week. Ruth pointed out that this would depend upon the presenters’ availability and willingness.

. Summer programming discussions have begun. The committee is looking at increasing Go Explores to at least two per month, and scheduling fewer courses. Possible scenario would be 6 to 8 Go Explores and one Potpourri series. There is an interest in more day long expeditions as well. A question was raised about using some of the money discussed earlier to pay for buses.

D. SOCIAL COMMITTEE

. Social committee is meeting February 16th to finalize plans for upcoming events. The Go Green event is set for Thursday, March 8th at the South Shore Pavilion. Activities will include a Get Acquainted Bingo. All are encouraged to bring an edible for the Pot Luck. As previously reported, the Spring Luncheon will take place at the Milwaukee Yacht Club on June 13th.

F. NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
Diane reported that there are currently seven newsletter staff members, including a retired Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reporter. Members’ names are listed in the Osher Outlook.

Osher Outlook is published bi-monthly. Submissions for articles and other items are due on the 2nd of the month preceding the Outlook issue.

Board members are encouraged to submit items for the March/April issue.

IV. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

None

V. KIM BECK’S REPORT

The Osher State conference is scheduled for October 5th and 6th, 2012 in Oshkosh; the Osher National will be held November 12th through November 14th in Colorado Springs. Traditionally the Board president and the Executive Director attend.

A new SIG is being established which will focus on general writing. It will begin in March, and will meet the first Tuesday of every month. The facilitator will be Maryagnes Luchini, who has taught writing classes for Osher in the past.

A motion was made and seconded to add General Writing as a Special Interest Group. The motion passed.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Kim informed the Board that Betty White, Treasurer will not be available to serve out the remaining four months of her term, and that Kathy Brehmer would be available to fill in. Terry pointed out that according to the Osher by-laws the Board can appoint a replacement. A motion was made and seconded to
appoint Kathy Bresmer to fill the remainder of Betty White’s term. The motion passed.

. The next Board meeting will be Monday, March 05, 2012.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary E. Kelly