

THE ICELANDIC CLUB OF GREATER SEATTLE

Board Meeting Friday, March 25th 2011

Meeting was held at the home of Henry Bjornsson and called to order at 6:15pm

Those officers and trustees present: Henry Bjornsson, Anna Hauksdottir, Markus Rook, Brynjar Halldorsson, Jens Eysteinnsson, Tota Sellars, Geir Jonsson, and Laura Hanson*

Guests present: Jutta Halldorsson and Edda Konradsdottir

*Laura Hanson was appointed Chief Managing Editor of TICGS Newsletter by the Board at the February Board Meeting. By rule, this appointment made Laura Hanson eligible to become a Trustee. Her election as a Trustee was proposed and approved by the Board at the February Meeting. Due to her appointment, there are now Seven total Trustees on the Board.

Officers and Trustees absent: Chuck Mulberg, Linda Russo, Agust Helgason, and Birna Sigurbjornsdottir

The minutes to the February Meeting were read by Markus Rook, Recording Secretary. With the exception of one correction, that "Bulk mailing requires that 200 newsletters be mailed out", the minutes were approved by the Board.

Treasurer's Report:

Chuck Mulberg, Treasurer, could not make the meeting, however, he did send an email (shared with those present at the meeting) providing the current balance of funds as of 3/24/11:

Club checking: \$12051.91

Iceland Room (NHM): \$5219.37

Scholarship Fund: \$7898.43

Additionally, he made mention that he will be using QuickBooks 2011 to keep track of TICGS accounting records. QuickBooks 2011 is software that he already uses, therefore will not cost TICGS anything, as opposed to purchasing the online version which would cost TICGS \$25/month.

Chuck also stated the need to remove the former Treasurer (prior to Tota) from the bank account. The bank is again asking for the minutes showing such changes and wants the Secretary to bring them in (again). As stated by Chuck, Markus did give the Chase branch in Alderwood the minutes in question. However, he feels that taking them in to any Chase branch will do better to satisfy their request. Basically, the need is to have only Henry and Chuck listed on TICGS bank account. The consensus of the Board was that both Henry and Markus arrange to meet and go to a nearby Chase bank to once and for all clear up an issue that was thought to have been already settled.

There is further question of where is the CD for the Iceland Room at NHM. As stated by Chuck in his email, "We should make sure that the contact information is correct and that it is being tracked appropriately. I know it is there and the funds are locked in the CD as Tota (Sellars) informed me of it during our [exchange] of the Treasurer duties, but I do not have access to the details of that account." The Board is currently looking for who has such details.

Lastly, Brynjar stated that he would like to see both Standard Operating Procedures and Budgets for the various club activities either made available or established as requested during the last meeting.

Old Business

Thorrablot:

Edda Konradsdottir handed to Henry the Thorrablot payment receipts, so that he may pass them along to Linda Russo for documentation. An estimated 185 were present. Return addresses were also given to Henry for Linda to document.

All payments have been made for Thorrablot, except for one bill outstanding of \$130.00. A check covering this said amount will be turned in to TICGS by Agust Helgason upon his return from Iceland.

A \$60 overweight fee was charged by Alaska Airlines to the Thorrablot band for the extra luggage they brought with them from California. Henry Bjornsson has compensated the band for this charge.

Overall, Thorrablot was a financial success. Deposit slips for an estimated \$7000 were given to Chuck Mulberg, Treasurer. **Note:** It was made clear during the meeting that Chuck will be the one to receive all checks/payments. Upon depositing the funds, he will then give the receipts to TICGS.

Note: A comment was made that the Chairperson of an event should be the one to make all decisions regarding the event in their charge. **CORRECTION:** The event's chairperson is to be in charge of designing its budget, which must be presented to the Board prior to the event for approval. During the event, all decisions are to be made by the event's board appointed chairperson.

Regarding Membership:

A financial report on Membership was not made available due to Linda Russo's absence. However, the following items were discussed in her absence:

All payments for Membership will be sent to Chuck in order for him to deposit them, after which he will send the receipts to Linda for documentation.

Need to mail notices to all inactive members, and recent members who have not paid yet this year, to remind them of the need for them to become members again. Two options for doing this were discussed: either send postcards printed by Kinko's costing \$100, or send out letters with pre-stamped envelopes as we have been. It was suggested by the Board that we continue to do it this way. 200 letters are in need of being sent out, these letters are to clearly state the benefits of being a member. **Note:** In summation, the issues in need of resolving are getting the unpaying to pay, and sending out renewal notices sooner than has been done, preferably by December. Furthermore, all notices of any kind should have a listing of upcoming events. Next newsletter is due out near June 1st, hopefully before the June 17th Celebration. As was suggested by Brynjar Halldorsson, this newsletter should contain not only a reminder that membership dues are indeed due, but also it should emphasize the benefits Paid TICGS members receive, examples of such benefits should be listed. It is important that we show members the benefits they receive for paid membership, to show the difference in event ticket prices between members and non-members. You are only a member, **if you pay** for membership. The Need as expressed explicitly by all on the Board is that unpaid members, or more correctly non-members should pay more for entry into TICGS events, in cases up to 20% more. For instance, Thorrablot should be at least if not more than \$10 more than what Paid Members pay either pre-paid or at the door.

It was discussed that non-members over the age of 80 are coming to events, and taken advantage of our offer for free admittance to those over 80. A proposal was brought forward stating that one has to be a TICGS Paid Member in order to receive the benefits of any waiver of entry fees. This proposal was unanimously approved by the Board and will be included in statement on both TICGS website and in all letters of event announcements.

Picnic:

Reservations have been made at Lynndale Park for the Icelandic Picnic, with the date set for Saturday, August the 13th from 11am to 6pm. The cost for reservations has increased from what it was last summer (\$85). The cost is now \$112. Tota Sellars will be the Chairperson of this event.

Website:

Discussion was made about updating the website so that it will present the current By-Laws. Also, there were members of the Board that were not listed on the site, this has since been updated to include all but for Geir Jonsson. This oversight will be remedied as soon as possible.

Use of the Term "Trustee":

There was discussion about the use of the term "Trustee", as was discussed in the January 14th Board Meeting. There needs to be included in the By-Laws an entry that not only clearly states the difference between what an Officer is and what a Trustee is, but also clearly defines the role of a Trustee. This needs to be brought up and **voted on** at the next Annual Meeting.

Scholarship:

There are currently 2 applicants, need more. The application is on the website. Discussion was made regarding the qualifications for applying for a scholarship. First of all, scholarships are open for both boys and girls. Secondly, two very important qualifications are that the applicant must be **at least 16yrs** of age **and** their parents and/or grandparents must be paid members of TICGS. A complete list of qualifications/guidelines can be found on TICGS website. Tota Sellars, Trustee, will be responsible for looking after scholarship applications.

New Business

Complaints of behavior at Thorrablot:

There have been complaints regarding the behavior at the recent Thorrablot. Letters from Alene Moris and Lady Lindal, read by Henry Bjornsson, were written to both Edda, Henry, and the Board stating their concern about the behavior of people in attendance, specifically those who exhibited apparent drunkenness and rudeness (noisy) during the Thorrablot Speech given by Jonas Thor, Historian. There was discussion by the Board about ways to deal with these issues in the future. One idea was to appoint someone to monitor the crowd, report any issues as they occur, i.e. drunkenness, and help to prevent them from escalating. Another concern was about the bar being opened one-half hour earlier and one-half hour later than previous Thorrablots. The Bar opened at 4:30pm and the meal was not served until after 6pm. There is concern about that length of time between the consumption alcohol and the availability of food. Also, another concern was raised regarding the Bartender over-serving certain individuals.

Regarding these concerns, first and foremost, a suggestion was made that certain performance standards be designed and presented to the Bartender, especially the extremely important need to watch for and not to serve

drunken guests. Secondly, a proposal was made that a letter be sent to Alene Moris from both Edda Konradsdottir, 2011 Thorrablot Manager and Henry Bjornsson, TICGS President. Henry has already spoken to Alene Moris, and a letter from both Edda and Henry has already been sent to Lady Lindal. It will be a Thank You letter representing the Board's guarantee that they are "taking her suggestions and concerns into account and they will be addressed."

Additional comments regarding Thorrablot were that the band, meal, and dancing were well received. The speaker Thor was given 15 minutes and he took 45 minutes. Furthermore, the Board shared the opinion of many Thorrablot guests that his speech was not of the kind suitable for an event such as Thorrablot. Additional comment was made that the President should address the guests at Thorrablot, which he did not do.

INL Convention:

The Icelandic National League made an inquiry of whether TICGS would like to host the 2013 INL Convention. If TICGS should host it, the INL will help us. TICGS is a member of the INL. This year's convention is going to take place in Edmonton. Henry Bjornsson will attend as a TICGS' lone representative.

Norwegian Parade May 17:

There is current need of the Board to appoint someone to organize TICGS participation in this event. Fred Freeman was one suggestion.

June 17 Observance:

There is a current need of the Board to appoint someone to organize this event. Also there's need to find a facility and set a date for this event based on its availability. Motion was made, seconded, and approved by the Board that Birna Sigurbjornsdottir, Trustee, be appointed as the Chairperson for this event upon her approval. Henry Bjornsson was given authority by the Board to appoint Birna as the June 17th Chairperson if she accepts the title and duties associated with this position.

Ellen Johnson's Claim for Payment:

Discussion was made concerning the offer made to TICGS by Ellen Johnson to put together the songbooks and program for the 2011 Thorrablot. Ellen contends that "the club could not afford to do it", so she did it and feels that she aided in the success of the event, therefore she is seeking compensation for her efforts. However, there was never any request made by the Thorrablot Committee for her assistance, and regarded her efforts as purely "done out of charity." There had been no discussion of compensation at any time before Thorrablot. In any case, a check for \$500 was sent to her by Chuck Mulbery, Treasurer. Upon hearing of this, Henry Bjornsson, President quickly contacted Ellen and told her not to cash it. Ellen agreed not to cash it until hearing back from the Board. A few proposals were made regarding this matter. One was suggested that she be paid \$100 alone for the songbooks and the file containing the original. Another suggested that she should not receive any payment at all. Still another suggested that she should make it a donation, therefore a tax-write-off.

After much deliberation, the following was ascertained: No monetary compensation shall be granted to an individual who, having made no prior agreement with TICGS, decides on their own to provide material and/or services "out of charity" for TICGS activities, and then seeks monetary compensation for such material and/or services **after the fact**.

Motion was made that Ellen Johnson receive no payment for either the songbook or the program. This motion was seconded, and approved by the Board.

Other Business

A proposal was made by Anna Hauksdottir for us to organize a "club video night". She has in her possession a video documentary produced by an Icelander (Sveinn Kristjan Bjarnarson) in Iceland called "From Turf Cottage to the Cover of Time: The Dramatic Life of Holger Cahill". The suggestion was made that perhaps it could be held at the home of a TICGS member. Margaret Hlastala was one name mentioned. Motion to do this was made, seconded, and approved.

Brynjar Halldorsson made a proposal that we better define our Meeting Agenda. *Old Business* should be *New Business* items/issues brought up during the previous meeting, and having not been resolved, these are carried over to the next meeting, and future meetings, as *Old Business* until they are indeed resolved. *New Business* becomes "*Old Business*" at the next meeting. *Other Business* should be statements made by Non-Board Members (Guests/TICGS Members).

NOTE FOR NEXT MEETING:

*Need to discuss the true cost of newsletters, this to be presented by Chuck Mulberg. Need figures (to be provided by Chuck) before next meeting, and to know where we stand on funds.

*Need to mention that whenever someone is sending in articles to be included in TICGS Newsletter, and in such articles there is direct and/or indirect mention of the type of business they do, i.e. Self-Promotion, the authors of said articles **need to pay for this articles inclusion as though it is an advertisement**. If an article is written about someone else, and it can be deemed to be promoting their business, then it is the opinion of the Board **that this article needs to be paid for as advertising**. It will be the responsibility of the Chief Editor of TICGS Newsletter to catch this.

*Need to discuss what should be in the Newsletter, and what should not be. Also, need to discuss the pricing of the advertisements and about their listing in the Newsletter.

TICGS March Board Meeting Minutes dutifully taken, organized, and presented by Markus Rook, Recording Secretary (4/1/11)