

MINUTES

Families with Children from China, Oregon SW Washington Chapter

Monday, January 22, 2006

6:30 – 8:30 P.M.

Meeting called by Betsy Haindl

Board Members Present Betsy Haindl, President, Paul Bollinger, Vice President, Joanna Agee, Treasurer, Myde Boles, Secretary
At Large, Judy Anderson, Matt Carlson, Jill Chen, Holly Odil, Katherine Collins

Board Members Absent Matt Carlson

Time	Item	Owner
5 minutes	Call to order, verification of quorum, review/adopt agenda Meeting called to order at 6:45. Quorum present. Agenda adopted as presented.	Betsy
5 minutes	Approve December 2006 Minutes Motion to approve December minutes – Jill. Second – Joanna. Vote to approve – 7. Abstain – 1.	Betsy
10 minutes	Treasurers report and update Banking update: Banking reported through November 2006 (last statement available to Joanna; note: Betsy has December statement). Betsy reported \$11,709.22 as of December 31, 2006. Charitable Giving Committee (CGC) now has access to the secondary account. Funds were transferred to the main account. Treasurer has ultimate fiduciary responsibility for secondary account. Card access/online banking has been initiated for the main account, but not CGC account. Point raised: who should be on the secondary account for online/card access? Agreement that CGC can have access but Board still gets the paper statements. As of now, only Betsy and Joanna are on the secondary account. A third person can be on it. Mei-mei is not eligible (some question regarding her eligibility was resolved). Signing over accounts at U.S. Bank: Original signers do not need to present. Board Secretary does not need to sign. Joanna: Unable to reconcile the account. The last reconciliation was done in June 2006. Missing 1 page of the July statement. However, as soon as online access becomes available, Joanna can retrieve back statements. All other statements are complete. No gross discrepancies reported after preliminary review. CT 12 Reporting (State tax) is due February 11. Joanna and Paul will review the form together and establish coding.	Betsy and Joanna

Decision: we do not need to hire a bookkeeper.

Other Financial Activity: Cheryl is depositing Membership dues. Amy is responsible for CNY \$\$\$. Sarah is handling charitable giving.

November deposits were a large \$\$ amount. Betsy will look at the checkbook to see what they are.

Paths to Motherhood is on spreadsheet. Remember the Joy is correct.

Topic for discussion raised by Paul: Should we have an audit after CNY? FCC has probably never had one before. Need to investigate cost. Still looking for a volunteer CPA. This will be deferred for discussion at a Board meeting after CNY.

5 minutes

Membership report

Betsy

267 members
12 pending
279 total

Expect membership to increase after CNY invitations received. Betsy has observed some new applications already.

5 minutes

Website update

New webmaster has been identified: Kris Keener. She has already started and has suggested several new ideas for the website. She met with Day O'Toole and now has access to the original coding for the website. After CNY updates and upgrades to the website will begin in earnest.

Jill reminded Board of problems with payment for membership on the website. This is a priority item that needs to be resolved. Pay Pal has not worked consistently and continues to be a problem. Google now has a payment option that we can investigate.

5 minutes

Directory advertising update

Betsy

Need more time to get ads. Betsy has made some contacts: Mary Masterson OHSU and Robin Pope, lawyer for readoption kits.

There is > \$1000 ad revenue as of today.

Cheryl has done a good job identifying resources to include in the Directory.

Approve disclaimer

Board discussed the disclaimer language that circulated on email and agreed to accept Paul's revisions except to keep the language "such as phone or email solicitation, mailing lists."

15 minutes

Liaison Reports

All

Charitable giving – Paul

No report

Culture/outreach/Education – Jill, Matt, Holly, Kathryn

Survey at CNY re Education and Culture topics: Discussion followed regarding whether it would be appropriate to survey members at CNY because of the volume of activity taking place. Additional discussion took place about the need to conduct a survey about other topics, in addition to culture and education.

Interim solution: Provide an activity list to each person at each table and ask them to check a given number of desired activities, plus a blank for providing an additional favorite. Holly, Jill, Katherine to work out the details. Board members will circulate during CNY to ask people to fill out the list. The survey could be combined with the raffle.

Decision: a larger, more comprehensive survey will be developed and administered after CNY.

Myde presented data on an estimate of foreign-born adoptions in Oregon. Data were provided Oregon Dept Human Services on the foreign born adoptions in Oregon by month and year back to 1998. (The source of these data is adoption paperwork filed with local jurisdictions. This is an underestimate of the count of adoptions because readoptions are not required by law, and as a result, many adoptions would not be counted locally). To get an estimate of Chinese adoptions, the percentage of Chinese adoptions nationally was applied to the Oregon figure. The result is about 90-100 per year and about 850 cumulative from 1998 through 2006.

Community building

China Sons – Holly

The first China Sons gathering was a "success" (as reported by Holly). Present were 7 boys, 9 parents, and 3 girls. Ages ranged from 2 to 6. Holly expects about 10 regular attendees in the future.

Goals for this group: (1) quarterly play dates, and (2) become a visible entity at CNY.

Future activities planned: (1) Play date scheduled for next month. (2) Cherry picking scheduled for June. (3) Race car activity.

Idea: PR to local adoption agencies about China Son, much the same way that Waiting Families publicizes its events.

Newsletter – Betsy

Paper versus electronic? Discussion regarding pros and cons of each. Betsy suggested that the newsletter could change from the paper/pdf format it is now to a print magazine format that is mailed 1-2 times per year.

Events and activities that need a timelier venue could be published online to be current.

Changes to "What's New" email. "Opt in" versus "opt out" to be explored further.

The upcoming member survey should address methods of communication with membership.

Membership/database – Betsy

Membership report – see above

Database – no report

20 minutes

CNY update

Betsy

357 invites sent to current and 1 year prior members. Expect some additional reservations because of advertising in Metro Parent.

Entertainment. All entertainment confirmed except Wally the Lion Dancer. He has not returned phone calls.

Dignitary brainstorm. Larry Blackmar (adoptive parent and husband of newscaster Tracy Barry) agreed to co-MC with Betsy. There was considerable discussion on whether to invite all local elected officials (mayors, State legislators, Congressmen) or whether to limit the list to those with some connection to the Chinese community. Other suggestions for invitations to those connected with Chinese community include PCCG, CCBA, NRCC, Asian Reporter, Woodstock and International School, China Times.

Decision: undetermined

University class from Vancouver. Board agreed that it would not be appropriate to offer this group the membership rate. Betsy will find out more about the purpose of their visit. Board members expressed concern about the intentions of this group, and there was consensus that they would not be welcome if their presence were to cause concern among FCC members.

Sponsor revenue. Currently at about \$1600 (about \$1000 ad revenue and \$600 vendor tables). Largest donor sponsor is Michael Han with Always and Forever Tours. Betsy requested additional help calling potential sponsors for vendor tables (at \$100 per table). Powells will have a table and will contribute 15% of sales to FCC.

15 minutes

Review past and upcoming events

Betsy

Waiting families. \$200 raised (Kelly) from waiting families with Adoption Mosaic.

First quarter events. Multnomah County Reads: Midnight at the Dragon Café by Judy Wong Bates (Chinese theme)

Kids club (ages 5-18) – no news

CNY Face Painting. Idea: Older girls do face painting on younger girls. Betsy wants to meet with them prior to CNY to train how to do face painting. Betsy will send email to publicize this event to this age group.

Older girls – teen/“tween” group. Proposed name: Shao Nian Hua. The activity and organization of this group are in the works.

5 minutes

New Business – none raised.

All

Next meeting Feb 5th at 6:30 Shanghai Noble

Meeting adjourned 8:50 pm

Betsy