



Minutes of a Natural Stone Council

Board of Directors Meeting

October 9, 2012

Present: Moe Bohrer, Bill Hood, Jane Bennett, Bill Halquist, Mark Sawyer, Brenda Edwards, William Swift, Alex Bachrach, Gary Distelhorst, Eddie Greene, Will Bybee, Tom Decker, Jeff Buczkiewicz, Jonathan Zanger, Jim Owens, guests Monica Gawet, Jim Hieb, Pete Roehrig, Dave Melum and Bernard Buster and Executive Director Duke Pointer.

Working with a 9-item agenda, Chairman Moe Bohrer called the meeting to order at 3:05 and read the anti-trust invocation. Bohrer then did a roll call of the Board. The minutes of the previous meeting, held September 18, 2012, were approved as presented (Motion: Buczkiewicz, Second: Bachrach with unanimous approval).

Buczkiewicz briefly discussed the financial report noting that as of 9/30 year to date revenues were \$ 100,510.00 and expenses were \$ 58,938.00, thus showing a net gain for the period of \$ 41,572.00. The NSC showed a balance on hand of \$ 206,841.92.00. Pointer noted that he had closed the Merchant Account used for accepting credit card donations because the monthly fees became excessive and the remaining balance was transferred to the NSC checking account. In addition he had negotiated a return of the previous bank fees on the checking and savings accounts. The Balance Sheet reflects those adjustments. The report was approved as presented (Motion: Owens, Second: Swift with unanimous approval).

Attention then turned to the Committee Reports. Roehrig, Gawet, Hood and Melum reported on the Regulatory Committee. The point was made that the outcome of the election will have an impact, in that items of concern may change. Monica, Pete, Bill and Dave will confer and may get a group together to identify pressing issues, some of which have subsided in recent months. MSHA is increasingly coming on site to review safety training with a focus on documentation. Melum encouraged folks, especially association executives, to contact their members and solicit comments and specific issues so that the efforts of the Committee can be targeted to those concerns. He further noted that any members with environmental folks on staff should be encouraged to reach out to him as well. Gawet noted that the website improvements should enhance communication and encourage more people to fill out information forms. As for ways to get more input via the website, Bennett noted that the designer is working on a password-protected blog. It was further noted that we need more publicity and to that end, Bachrach noted he'd be glad to help craft a press release that can be distributed both on line and in the print magazine. He and Pointer will coordinate this by e-mail

Bennett reported that the new and improved website done by Interactive Media Consultants is now live and that comments are being collected. She further noted that Stephanie has done a good job with her comments on the sustainability section and that additional good comments are being received. Much of the content is several years old and needs updated. We have the design files but will need someone with design experience to do the updates. Hieb offered the services of the MIA graphic designer, which is much appreciated. This updating of the website should also be noted in a press release and Jane will put that together to send to Duke for distribution. The thought is to have two separate press releases...one for the website and one for the sustainability standard. The site needs to be kept fresh which will involve Duke as the point person working with various others. The updates can likely be done by lay folks and it's beneficial for us to do the changes. The group is considering doing a webinar for and about the NSC and its activities and the addition of PayPal, which Duke explained prior to the meeting in an e-mail, should be an asset for our fund-raising efforts. To date, the total fees paid for the site design are \$ 5,195.00, which is only \$ 195.00 over budget, however when combined with a \$ 500 savings in web hosting, the net website initiative is favorable to budget.

Buster stated that the Sustainability Standard is out for public review and comment and has thus far been downloaded 390 times by people wanting to review it. The Committee will be developing a handout in an FAQ (and answers) format to be distributed to the various associations for distribution to their memberships.

Buczkiewicz noted that the Fund-Raising Committee has a letter about ready to go out to past donors and others and should have it to Duke by tomorrow morning. Duke has the e-mails for the past donors. It was also

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suggested that the group could do an electronic newsletter. Once it's put together, Duke can send it out to the Association heads with a link at the bottom for contributions. They can then send it as an e-mail blast to their members. Jeff requested reports from the Committee Chairs for inclusion into the newsletter.

In response to a question, Bennett noted that the BSI had received a total of 61 responses on the Sustainability issue to date, and 73.8% agree that the BSI should support the effort, while 26.2% disagreed. 83.6% recognize the benefits of Sustainability for the industry. In a nutshell, the majority of their members support the BSI's involvement and the standard.

In his Executive Director's report, Pointer discussed the fact that the Board member terms currently expire in June, as that's how it was originally set up. It was suggested that we make them follow the calendar year so as to more closely coincide with the annual Board meeting currently being held in January, in conjunction with StonExpo. He will come up with verbiage for the change and will have it for our next meeting. He also reminded folks about the rooms he has set aside for GreenBuild and asked that anyone wanting to come let him know by the end of next week so that he can release any unused rooms.

There was no old business.

Under new business, Halquist reported a "colorful" discussion on sustainability took place at the ASI's recent meeting in Montana, with mixed opinions on the issue. In response to a question he noted that the ASI did not vote to take a formal position on the standard. He estimated that the group is more or less equally split on the issue with half being for and half against it. Many are in favor of sustainability and are happy we are pursuing it while others are hung up on the details. Many don't like the trucking aspects and the biggest concerns center on the costs. Edwards noted that the NSC/NSF is getting a group together to go into a couple of companies, including hers, in an effort to get a feel for the costs that may be involved. It was noted that an industry fact sheet will help and the more information the better. Major fears involve the unknown. Halquist noted that the group would comment further after more information becomes available. It was noted that there is more to be done, with chain of custody being a major issue. It was again noted that if a government entity picks up the standard and writes it into law, then it's no longer "voluntary". That said, it seems it would be better if the industry comes up with a standard rather than having others do it for us.

Bennett was asked if she had any details on demographics of her 61 responses (out of 214 total members) and she noted that she did not.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2012 at 3:00 Eastern time.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 (Motion: Halquist, Second: Sawyer).

Respectfully Submitted:

Secretary: Jim Owens