

5CLIR Council Meeting

December 14, 2006

MINUTES

Next Meeting: February 8, 2007 at Five Colleges, Inc.

PRESENT: Arnold Friedmann, Mary Franks, Dorothy Gorra, June Guild, Charles Klem, Joyce Mazur, Hy Edelstein, John Gaustad, Joan Hastings, Wil Hastings, Ruth Hooke, Peter Reitt, Dorothy Rosenthal, Nina Scott, Eleanor Shattuck, Sheila Klem, Gail Gaustad, Katharine Hazen, Sara Wright, Marybeth Bridegam, Charles Gillies, James Scott. Guests: Lorna Peterson, Marie Hess, Johan Brongers, Larry Archey, Pamela Goodman, Joshua Cohen.

President Arnold Friedmann called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Amherst College Alumni House.

Minutes of the November meeting were approved as distributed.

President Friedmann called attention to guests. He said that the first hour would be given over to the explanation of Hampshire College's plans for Veridian Village and then introduced Johan Brongers, treasurer of Hampshire College, who was accompanied by his associate, Larry Archey. Also at the speakers' table were Pamela Goodman and Joshua Cohen of Beacon Communities. Lorna Peterson and Marie Hess represented Five Colleges, Inc.

Hampshire College Treasurer, Johan Brongers, began the presentation with some background, citing that Hampshire College is land-rich and cash-strapped. The Hampshire Master Plan group has been working on a five-year building project that will emphasize Hampshire's main interests -- lifelong learning, concern for the environment, and promoting a community of people with common interests. The emphasis is on the age group of those 55 and older, the so-called Baby Boomers.

Pamela Goodman, President of Beacon Communities, distributed a prospectus of Veridian Village and spoke about the work that is being done by Josh Cohen, the project director. Veridian Village will be a cluster development with both townhouses and one-story units located on Route 116 across from the Hampshire College campus. She detailed the energy-saving features of the plan and described the community building and the individual units. She emphasized that two-thirds of the available land surrounding the complex will stay untouched as a conservation trust.

During the question period Council members asked about such matters as parking spaces, the use of public transportation, and the place that 5CLIR might

have in this plan. The present intention is for LIR to have the use of a room in the community building, and it seemed clear that this plan might well change as Veridian Village becomes owned by its residents.

At the end of the presentation President Arnold Friedmann thanked all the guests for their informative explanations.

5CLIR COUNCIL MEETING followed the presentation on Veridian Village.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Since committee reports were distributed electronically this time, the agenda item involved time for questions about the reports. The suggestion was made that committee chairs continue to submit their reports about routine matters electronically. If extra information needs to be added, then the chair can add to the report at Council meetings, which will still be the place for questions and discussion. Reports would need to be submitted by one week before the Council meetings, and this procedure would be evaluated in a few months.

Questions came up about the timing, since some committees have their regular meetings shortly before the Council meetings and it would be difficult to prepare reports in a brief time. Rather than tabling this issue until next month, Council voted on the motion.

MOTION: For the entire spring semester 2007, committee chairs will electronically submit a monthly report about routine matters to the 5CLIR office one week before each Council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS:

Permanent Planning Committee. A recommendation has been made to establish a Permanent Planning Committee, which will have as a major task the clarification of the Associate Membership issue. This planning committee was one of the "Next Steps" that came out of the Task Force from a few years ago. Council decided to explore such a planning committee at a later meeting, requesting something in writing from the Executive Committee as a basis for the discussion.

Trial Guest Membership. Another recommendation that involves the issue of Associate Membership is the Trial Guest Membership suggestion submitted to Council electronically by Wil Hastings. This arrangement would reverse the dues structure, with new members paying \$50 at first, then \$150 if they wanted to have full membership in 5CLIR. Or they could choose to become associate members. Some points in favor of this arrangement are that trial membership is a way to

increase membership as a whole, it makes it possible to ease into full membership, and it makes associate membership less difficult to attain. On the other hand, it may be important for people to commit to the organization without intermediate steps.

NEW BUSINESS:

Special Programs schedule change --

Council discussed a proposal to change the "new" seminar-schedule day from Wednesday to Thursday in order to accommodate the needs of Special Programs.

MOTION: Effective on July 1, 2007, the Thursday schedule will be as follows:

Morning Seminars, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Special Programs, 12 Noon - 2 p.m.

Afternoon scheduling --

First and Second Thursdays -- Curriculum Committee and Council meetings

Third and Fourth Thursdays -- Special Programs and other Committee meetings

MOTION CARRIED.

Technology Committee's plans. Technology chair Peter Reitt announced that the committee plans a survey of all LIR members to determine their technology needs, and the committee will also organize walk-in clinics for members. Details will be in the next newsletter.

President Arnold Friedmann concluded the meeting by summarizing other decisions. Council is in favor of a Permanent Planning Committee and will discuss a specific plan to be developed by the Executive Committee before the next meeting. Throughout spring semester 2007, committee chairs will submit written reports on routine matters, with added information and discussion at Council meetings. The issue of trial membership will be considered and brought to Council.

The business meeting adjourned at 4:22 and was followed by a social hour in honor of the January wedding of Callie Kendall and Tom Orszak.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Mazur, Secretary