

Minutes for FFPC meeting March 16th 2014, 12.00 - 14.00

Present were: Greg, Dave, Anu, Ray, Jukka, Pete, Chris, Katariina and Elisa

Minutes of the January 12th were approved, Dave moved and Jukka seconded the approval of the minutes.

- 1) Treasurer's report: 19-20 people have renewed their membership. We should make phone calls or send out another notice to remind the members. Currently we only offer 1 year or lifetime membership. Jukka suggested adding membership options for other time periods such as 1, 3 and 5-year memberships. Greg will talk to Dirk about adding other options; this will be discussed in next board meeting.
- 2) Reports of Officers or Special Committees:
 - a) PIFF and Reel Nordic Film Night: 18-20 people attended the reception for Disciple. 12 people attended "Napapiirin Sankarit" - movie, Jukka and Judy brought snacks. The movie was well received even though the audience was small.
 - b) Ranking FFPC activities from annual meeting: ranking by 1, 2 and 3 ratings based on the feedback from the annual meeting. 23 people participated in the survey; some of them might not have even attended the events they were rating though. Pete volunteered to do some more analysis and create a weighted ranking. This will be reviewed in next board meeting.
 - c) Olli Hirvonen: Option for staying in the University Place at a discounted rate was offered to Olli Hirvonen and his band. Additionally, Ray moved to sponsor Olli for \$250, Chris seconded. Motion carries to sponsor Olli Hirvonen for \$250.
 - d) New venue Tabor space. Cheap rates, space is good. Can be used e.g. for Andrea Tolonen's presentation.
- 3) Report on progress of the Nordic center:

Aase Beaulieu development director of Scandinavian heritage foundation gave a presentation regarding the Nordic center. SHF's name change to Nordic heritage foundation will coincide with the opening of the Nordic center.

An Italian architect firm was chosen to finish the project and the result is a modern, efficient

design. The initial budget was \$3.6m, which was later increased to \$5-5.3m. Aase handed out brochures about the new center. Design changed to much smaller with a new designer from 14,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet.

Additional funding needs to be secured before the construction can start. So far received a recommitment from SHF of \$250k + additional \$100 matching challenge. Another \$300k needed in order for the construction start this summer. Once the permit is picked up, the construction will have to be started within 1 year. Cost of the permit process around \$65k so the permit will only be picked up once the funding is secured.

Bridge loan has been secured from a bank, currently trying to create attractive investment opportunities for potential investors. Messiah Lutheran church contribution is considered a pledge. Pledge can be made payable according to the results. A multi-year pledge would be considered part of the needed funds. Longest pledge period 5 years.

Art: Aase has talked to 2 Scandinavian artists about making the naming opportunities more personal (naming of contributors of \$5k and above). One artist suggested for the multi-purpose room to create a book of glass saying "this room was made possible by" instead of a plaque outside.

Right now focus is on collecting the funds. In the future there could be possibilities of changing exhibition to showcase American Scandinavian art in collaboration with other organizations.

Dave suggested creating a team to start discussing art in the building and hopefully to create enthusiasm. Aase mentioned that the group should extensively research the architecture to find out what type of work and how many pieces are needed. Dave moved, Jukka seconded to appoint Chris, Dave and Pete to form a committee to explore and collaborate with other organizations regarding the art for Nordic center.

4) New business:

- a) Midsummer festival: June 14th. Need to fill out the form for license and pay \$100. Pete got the food handlers card, have to make sure we have enough people with the card. Dennis and Katariina are willing to help, Jukka will help with the set up. Discussion replacing the hot dog with herring, Jukka suggested keeping the hot dog if it sold well. Greg will bring a loaf of Astoria's dark rye to the next board meeting to sample. Subcommittee formed for food: Pete, Chris, Jukka and Dave. Pete wanted to contribute a food item; deer with lingonberry jam. Dennis and Greg will get the supplies. Elisa will be available for couple of hours and her students will play Finnish music. Dave will create signs.
- b) Naselle Finnish Festival: Dave thinks we should sponsor the festival and be more coordinated. We have had presence in the festival before and created profit. Might be more appropriate for the Astoria Scandinavian group than FFPC. FFPC will not sponsor

the fiddle trio but would like to increase membership in the area and can donate money towards Naselle in the future. Judy will have a booth; Jukka will ask if FFCPC could have a little section in her booth. Greg will check with SHF what they are planning to do.

- c) Andrea Tolonen and her FNN grant presentation. Tabor space cost for 15-30 people, 1 hour \$30. Topic "Green Care Finland". American Holistic Healing conference coming up during Rose Festival, we could coordinate with the timing and hopefully to get some of them in the audience. Chris will check the dates and talk to Andrea. Sometime in May would work for FFCPC.
 - d) Kalevala Day 2015 Elisa and Chris to work on ideas.
 - e) Posting articles on website: we should have an ad hoc committee to review what goes into the website. Dave moved, Chris seconded appointing a committee, Chris, Elisa and Greg volunteered for the committee. Pete volunteered to do the Facebook together with Cynthia.
 - f) Sibelius anniversary 2015: Finlandia Foundation National has formed a committee to coordinate events. Each chapter should promote Sibelius locally partnering with local organizations such as orchestras, schools etc. Seattle Symphony will have a 3-week Sibelius festival. Sibelius was the 1st patron of the FFN. Add to the agenda for next meeting. Dave moved to appoint Elisa to be our representative in relation to the festival. Chris seconded. Elisa has contact with Sibelius' relative who might have some ideas.
 - g) Book club at Katariina's house.
 - h) Vappu: FFCPC was asked to provide cookies and drinks. Dave and Dirk made sima last year. The event will take place Apr 30th? (Dave to confirm the day). Donuts, sima cranberry juice and perhaps some Finnish baked goods. Dave moved to participate with a budget of \$50, Jukka seconded. Motion carries.
 - i) Next board meeting Apr 13th at noon.
- 5) Ray moved to adjourn the meeting, Chris seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 1:55.