

Northern Community Mediation  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
March 8, 2012  
Giuseppe's, Charlevoix

Board members present: David Leusink, John Marshall, Hon. Fred Mulhauser, Dr. Roger Postmus; Kirk Raymond, Paula Welmers; Joel Wurster

Board members absent: Toni Arthur, Michelle Cortright, Bill Denemy, Lisa Hoyt, Jim Raber, Pat Seagmen

Staff Present: Jane Millar

Ted called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes:

The meeting minutes from January 19, 2012, were presented. John Marshall moved to approve, seconded by Roger Postmus. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

John Marshall provided an update on the monthly financial reports. The budget is tracking well so far this year. John also reviewed the 2011 year end statements for NCM funds held by the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area and the Charlevoix County community foundations. Some of these funds are exposed to market fluctuations, and this risk is reflected in the losses that occurred in some of these funds last year. As for the gains in some of these funds, the consensus is to roll such gains back into the funds rather than disbursing them at this time. Treasurer's report accepted, moved by Roger Postmus, seconded by Fred Mulhauser. Unanimously approved.

President's Report.

Ted acknowledged that the 2012 budget had been approved by a unanimous e-mail vote by the board members in December 2011. This process is permitted by the organization's governing documents. The records of this vote are on file with the executive director.

Executive Director's Report, presented by Jane Millar:

1. Case Reports – Provided a brief overview of cases to date. Additional information concerning current year case reports will be available at the next meeting.
2. Collection of Fees – Jane reported that fee collection rates this year are consistent with historical collection rates.
3. Theatre Party – Scheduled for Monday, March 12 at the Petoskey Cinemas. Jane has been busy organizing this fund-raising event. Sponsorships are down slightly from last year. Overall ticket sales figures will not be available until after the party. Everyone was encouraged to continue promoting attendance at this event.

4. Meeting with Frank Foster – State Representative Frank Foster recently visited the NCM offices in Petoskey. Jane provided Representative Foster with a tour of the facilities and an overview of NCM's operations. The meeting went well and Jane appreciated the opportunity to share information about NCM with one of our area legislators.
5. MI CDRP Centers' Association – Jane updated the board on the newly-formed statewide association for Community Dispute Resolution Programs. She will be serving as the Vice President of this organization that will help to provide a coordinated voice and point of contact for Michigan CDRP's. Annual dues to this organization will be based upon 2% of the CDRP grant for each participating center. This will equate to slightly less than \$1,000 for NCM. A member of this association will be appointed to serve as a representative to the State Bar ADR counsel.
6. Review of Board Retreats – The Board felt that the panel presentation by area judges at the 2012 board retreat was quite informative and helpful. Jane reviewed a summary of the goals that arose out of the 2011 board retreat and updated the board on the progress towards these goals. One area of growth for NCM that Jane is pursuing involves a school attendance mediation program. Jane has submitted a grant application to the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation for assistance in establishing such a program with the Pellston Public Schools.
7. Story Telling Presentation – Jane has recently tried a new approach in speaking to community groups about NCM. It involves her telling stories based upon actual mediations that have occurred while still preserving the confidential aspects of those mediations. This approach has worked well in recent engagements and Jane plans to use it in visits she plans to make to some of the local service clubs.
8. Fee Structure – Jane is working to gather some additional information to present to the board on this topic and expects to have it available at an upcoming board meeting.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

The consensus of the board was to adjust the next meeting date to Thursday, May 24, at the Bob-In Again in Petoskey, as Jane will be away on the date for which the meeting was originally scheduled.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joel Wurster, Secretary