

Special General Meeting of Members Youth Science Foundation Canada

Wednesday, May 17, 2006, 1:00 P.M.
Room P0-5000, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi
Chicoutimi, Québec

MINUTES

Facilitator: Catherine Lamontagne

Chair: Lorne Heslop

- Announced 5 minute challenge to keep meeting moving
- Invitation to speak French whenever preferred
- All documents e-mailed before, only a few copies made as this fair is aiming to be waste-free

1. Message from the Chair (Lorne Heslop)
 - Thank you to Host Committee and facilitator
 - Welcomes, appreciative words for your efforts to be at the fair
 - YSF has strived to meet your needs
 - Pleased with the new on-line registration system that is excellent
 - New governance policies – available to all Members through the YSF website
 - Appreciation of vitality of organization
2. Agenda changes were projected on screen and announced by Catherine
 - No additions
 - Moved – Fraser Head, Board
 - Seconded – Susan Olynyk, Bay Area
 - Motion passed.
3. Other Business
 - Question about Saguenay's zero waste policy: Is it to be continued at other CWSFs? Lorne Heslop responded that it cannot be determined by current speakers, or for all the other fairs, but there is evidence that waste is being reduced significantly each year – information systems usage instead of paper passing has increased, waste is down impressively in general by participants, and tree planting seems to be a popular idea (may be continued in Truro – they are investigating).

Attendees agreed unanimously to have Reni Barlow present the Executive Director's Report while waiting for the scrutineer's report.

4. Executive Director's Report (Reni Barlow, YSF).
 - Two topics to bring up in this report: new ends/goals for YSF, and recent activities.

- Ends/Goals
 - YSF is aiming to promote programming to youth, to provide international opportunities for today's young scientists, to serve regions, to encourage the development of a national youth science community and to build awareness in educational and business communities. There is intent to build national programs – the plans are not yet complete, but will likely include public events in collaboration with regions, such as the Youth Science Month kickoff event held in conjunction with the Ottawa 2008 team.
 - Recent Activities
 - There are now two mailing programs: Invent the Future and Youth Science Month. Both provide recognition for Science Fair programs and regions; these can be expanded to include live events, and YSF is looking to implement this in the fall of 2006.
 - The SMARTS program connects youth to peer mentors and entry-level resources. This program has grown steadily since it was started in the fall of 2004.
 - A mentorship program is being developed. There is strong interest from alumni, and an agreement that mentorship is a valuable component in the development of young scientists
 - The inspireyouth.ca initiative was announced at the Team Canada media event in Toronto. This collaboration with Intel and Actua is intended to encourage technology industry engineers and professionals to volunteer as mentors in the YSF Canada and Actua programs. It is anticipated that the mentorship program will be launched this fall.
 - International Polar Year is coming up in 2007-2008. It will be a focus at the next 2 CWSF's, with YSF playing a lead role in outreach and education. YSF is a partner in the development of a school resource package for students across Canada. YSF also intends to launch a polar research division at the CWSF.
 - New in 2005/06 are the online Vector database of science, technology, engineering and math opportunities and the Science Canada Expo at this year's fair. A long-term goal is to position YSF Canada as the youth science portal for grade 7-12 students in Canada.
5. Scrutineer's Report (Gerry Cooke).
 - 97 members present
 - 21 proxies received
 - Total of 118 - quorum (minimum of 15) is met
 6. Approval of Minutes.
 - Special General Meeting, May 21, 2005
 - No changes required.
 - Move to accept: Antoine Garwah, Board
 - Seconded: Carole Charlebois, Board

- Motion passed.
 - Annual Meeting – November 26, 2005
 - No changes required.
 - Moved to accept: Elaine Irwin, Board
 - Seconded: Susan Olynyk, Bay Area
 - Motion passed.
7. Treasurer's Report (Thomas Lee via conference call from Toronto).
- Overview of June 30/05 financial statements, accepted at the 2005 AGM and audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers. Thomas noted that the statement of financial position was weaker than last year with a deficit of about \$103,000. \$40,000 of the deficit represents a liability for a pension allowance that is not payable until 2014. Many of the three-year commitments from sponsors have now concluded, but considerable fundraising work has been done this year and Thomas expects the situation has turned around. He noted that the “going concern” statement from the auditors is standard language to alert readers of the financial statements that there is a deficit. Overall, he is optimistic the 2006 will have been a much better year financially.
8. Election of Directors.
- Antoine Garwah announced the candidates for election to the Board.
- It was suggested that asking candidates who are present to stand would be unfair to those in attendance. There was general agreement so candidates' names were announced, but they did not stand.
 - Antoine briefly outlined what is expected of a Board director, and then invited members to begin voting.
9. National Science Fair Committee Report (John Barron).
- John announced the NSFC has been revising policies into a consistent and easily accessible format through a process led by Fraser Head. The NSFC has held monthly conference calls through the year, which maintains excellent communications. A commitment was made at the 2005 AGM to have notes from NSFC meetings posted online, but this has not been completed, primarily due to the extra time required to prepare notes from the minutes. Key information is being passed to regions through zone representatives.
 - Questions
 - Where are the policies? They are on the YSF website under Members/Regions > Policy Directory. It is a new role of the past chair to maintain the policies.
 - Are the revision dates available? Yes, they are provided in the heading of each policy document.

- John indicated that the NSFC is looking at preparing a procedures manual for host committees, based on motions passed by the delegates and suggestions made by host committees at previous CWSFs.
10. Reni was invited to respond to questions as the ballots were still being counted.
 - Questions: Clarification of the three year commitments that Thomas spoke about? A number of three-year agreements were made with sponsors in 2002. When many of those commitments expired in 2005, it presented a difficult financial position where much of YSFs sponsorship was unconfirmed. YSF has been able to renew most of the commitments, though many are single-year agreements. YSF is working to stagger expiration dates on sponsor agreements so that all do not end at the same time.
 11. Next Meeting.
 - The next Annual Meeting will be in November of 2006.
 - The next Special General Meeting will be in Truro in May 2007, but the final date will be released later, with it being officially announced in April 2007.
 12. Lorne announced that a press release has been posted on the Trent University webpage announcing the success of the Peterborough bid for 2010. There was a question about whether hosting for CWSF 2009 had been determined and it was reported that discussions are still underway.
 13. Election Results.
 - Gerry Cooke announced the successful candidates in the election:
 - Carole Charlebois
 - Farhad Seif
 - Marilyn Webster
 - Gerry thanked all Members who ran for election, and thanked the scrutineers: Jim Langen, Leo Cartieri and Wade Oberg.
 - Gerry Cooke requested a motion to destroy the ballots.
Moved by: Scott Barry, Quinte
Seconded by: Susan Olynyk, Bay Area
Motion passed.
 14. Motion to adjourn.
Moved by: Jason Marshall, United Counties
Passed unanimously.