

ANNUAL MASKGI MEETING, at Roosters Restaurant, November 14, 2015

Meeting was not convened at 10:00am because we didn't have a quorum. We had 6 people of which 5 were voting members.

10:11 am the meeting was convened by President Emma Pope-Welch.

Introductions were made by those below. 4 nonmembers, 2 officers and 6 voting members so we have quorum. Members attending: Chris Strout, Alice Bean Andrenyak, Emma Pope-Welch, Paul Knight, Brescian Lander, Ernie Forgioine Jr., George Libby, Tom Bergh, Erin Quigley, Travis Journagan. Guests: Liz Johnson, Humphrey Johnson, Adam Bower, Jim Bowler.

The purpose of the meeting is a discussion on the future of MASKGI. President Emma stated that we have a declining membership, some committees that were working but not reporting and asked what do we want to do for the future? We have been talking about big goals in the past years and not being able to make them happen. We went out for a slate and only got one person to volunteer to become treasurer which brings big concerns regarding the health and future of MASKGI.

An open discussion ensued and these are points and comments of the discussion:

Organizations ebb and flow, what have we done in the recent years after the re-envisioning workshop meeting? New standards and outreach came out and yet since that time we haven't moved forward with any of it due to? Foibles, website, some progress – are we ready for the future? Can we really build membership? The Marketing Committee created a great brochure for newly licensed guides, yet none have joined.

Merge?

Throw it in?

Wait for the swell come back in after a few years? By having a minimal effort of existence will we be able to come back.

We need to have an issue to band around.

Networking together and exposure to others. Guide social gathering– fun.

Keeping abreast of what is changing, doing better individually, as an outfitter, and as an organization.

Focus on being just a network with a newsletter about information on state level info (state testing

rules, changes in PFD rules, and other rules that affect our lives as guides), do we need to be political?

What should happen at the state level for guide exams? Easier to enter or harder for guide's license?

What should the requirements be? Should watersports guides be able to be anywhere in the State of Maine not segregated to tidal water or still water? SUP now has token hoops of questions on exams, but why do SUP guides have to be SK and/or REC guides based on the water that they use? Why do SUP Yoga teachers need to be guides?

The way people research trips is to Google the area where they are going and search for local ways to meet their goals. Rack Cards should be done away with. (Secretary's note – we didn't print any in 2015 and have no plan to print again in the future.)

Dead horse – name change but it really doesn't meet the current offerings by guides and outfitters.

Name change – if we have an organization to move us forward then come back to that issue.

MWGO and MPMGO Maine Wilderness Guides Organization went from a totally volunteer organization to hiring a part-time director who works as a clerk of the works and keep information flowing. It's a small stipend, but it does give someone a reason to do their work and get the information moving.

They do have to be responsible for their work. That has helped to bring their organization back from a low point and moving forward. They have a seat on the IF&W table. We still don't and we are much older. Why? Maine Professional Guides Organization definitely has a paid director and lobbyist. Their focus is more about consumptive guiding than non-consumptive guiding. They do offer a myriad selection of benefits to members. We are unable to consistently offer benefits.

We established that we want to exist at 10:55 am and not dissolve the organization.

What can we focus on for our future? Everyone was asked to give 3 choices. The choices are listed: social interaction between members, lobbying, ethical standards, do away with marketing but make a better website, liability insurance, hibernation filing the 501.C3 or whatever we are , promoting sea kayak guiding along the Maine coast – which should attract paying customers, political side is important, if we put us to sleep will we be able to revive ourselves?, attracting people to the state, MITA is an incredible resource and partner, low maintenance of the organization means ..., standards of practice, membership (32 between outfitters and individual members), we lack in the administrative skills department – how to get those assets, advocating at state level, educational opportunities, official liaison with the state, MWGO approach, ACA approach.

Discussion was held for 15 minutes about exams and what the process of a state liaison position would work through.

Motion: Create up to 3 official MASKGI state liaisons with no more than two for sea kayaking and one for SUP. Discussion – are they reporter or a promoter of policy. Should there only be 1 so that they will fulfill the work? Do we need to have that division of work? Passed.

Voted for state liaisons: Chris Strout and Travis Journagan. Nominated and approved. It was

mentioned that currently Scott Shea does some of that work, but sometimes it has been perceived that he is focused on his work needs.

Motion: Send out through the email, asking for a third state liaison member. Approved.

Treasurer report: As of this morning we had \$5,771.28 before room rental, pizza, coffee, and other expenses.

Motion: Create a Facebook MASKGI Group. Seconded and passed. Brescian volunteered to do the Facebook Group. We can share pictures there. Do we need an impartial company to at least yearly check the website and update it? Our website is hosted by GoDaddy. No decision was made.

Lunch of artisan pizza by Roosters.

T-shirts that are free. 1 XXL, 9 L, 6M, 5S are available.

Officers – all officers expire at the end of the meeting. What to do? Volunteers?

Discussion followed to suggest ideas of who might serve as officers and what our officers currently do.

At the end of discussion the following people were nominated or volunteered for positions.

Chris Strout – President

Brescian Lander – Vice President

Joe Guglielmetti – Secretary/Treasurer

The proposed slate created at the meeting was voted and approved by an unanimous vote of the voting members. There was a quorum and the vote is binding.

Next meeting will be April 30th. New President Chris Strout will be following up on this to members and future members.

Historical social events were shared.

Motion: Reduce the Business Membership to \$70 per year as we will no longer be creating printed rack cards. A business owner may have an individual membership of \$30.00 and guide employees may join for \$10.00 per year. Unanimously Approved.

Discussions were held about the different platforms for our website. Brescian felt that we should move to WordPress. It is a great standard in many people's minds. The need for mobility is a key especially right now and adding imagery. Stills and videos are important. No final decisions were made, but Brescian volunteered to take over the responsibility of the website and Facebook page, as a Vice President duty. All agreed.

A verbal thank you was given to Emma Pope-Welch as President, Tom Bergh as Vice President, Paul Knight as Treasurer, and Alice Bean Andrenyak as Secretary by Chris Strout and attendees.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

Respectfully submitted to the MASKGI membership,

Alice Bean Andrenyak

Secretary