

Marine Education Center

Meeting Notes 6/7/18

Attending: Peter Linderoth, Phil Horner, Leon Potok, Katherine Desmond

May 2018 Minutes: - Amended minutes approved.

MEC Director's Report:

MEC will be open Wednesday through Sunday for the Summer season

Kyle's intern, Christian, has been very helpful so she is hoping to have him hired to work at the Center – Sandy says his salary has been approved by the Recreation Department

Kyle plans to do a Science Camp in August

Kyle met Dr. Marcus Burglar who is well known for his work with James Cameron on water drones. Kyle is hoping to organize the MHS Robotics Club to build a water drone for the MEC

Kyle's collaboration with SUP continues to be a big hit. The Kayak Alliance plans to join in the Sound water clean-up as well.

Request from the MEC Advisory Committee: The Advisory committee once again requested that Kyle Troy send her MEC report directly to the Advisory Committee

Fund Raising:

Peter Linderoth, Helen Rafferty and Leon Potok had a conference call to discuss future fund raising efforts for the MEC. Helen suggested that grants would be the most effective and profitable means of raising significant funds for the Center. She also suggested creating a list of major gifts – such as funding a season-long staff member for the Center, underwriting a Summer Fellow for the MEC, sponsoring a program or a camper for the summer – that might appeal to donors. Leon advocated for a year-round approach to grass roots fund raising.

More discussion on grass roots fund raising and organizing and administering fund raising efforts: Leon spoke to Augie Fusco who said his department would be willing to hold donations that came in for the MEC until a fundraising committee member could review them to capture the donor's information. There was discussion about year-round fundraising efforts. Leon advocated for using a Go Fund Me type of fun collection vehicle. Helen thought that was not a fundraising vehicle that was more appropriate for project based rather than ongoing fundraising efforts. Further research is needed. It was also suggested that Kyle set up a Friends of the MEC website. Some committee members expressed concern about diluting the MEC main page's appeal and confusing people about what site to visit. Kyle mentioned that she gets occasional small donations at the Center from visitors. It was agreed that these donations do not require a thank you letter.

### Art for the Exterior of the MEC:

Leon shared a proposal for a permanent painted artwork on the exterior of the MEC. The artist is a local resident and works with the Mamaroneck Arts Council. There was no information on the cost of the project (supplies, maintenance, etc...)

Helen expressed the view that no artwork featured at or on the MEC should be permanent. The committee agreed to continue discussion about the art project via email.

BOT Resolution forming the MEC Advisory Committee: Discussion of resolution's main points

- 1) Overseeing day to day operations – it may be time to change this language as the committee's role has now that the Center is up and running and is being managed by a trained naturalist
- 2) Fund raising – included in the original language – details are still being discussed
- 3) Public Relations – currently falls under the fundraising committee's duties – perhaps a volunteer with PR expertise should be found?

The committee plans to formalize suggested revisions to the Advisory Committee resolution's language and discuss in subsequent meetings.

The committee also expressed the opinion that finding volunteers for a formal Friends of the MEC group should begin.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20pm

The next MEC Advisory Committee meeting will be held on July 12<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at The Regatta.

Submitted by Helen Rafferty

