

Timber Framers Guild

Board of Directors

Teleconference call

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Call commenced at 7:00pm Eastern

Attending:

Will Beemer, Joel McCarty, Lisa Sasser, Collin Beggs, John Miller, Rick Collins, Whit Holder, Grigg Mullen, Chris Gunn, Brenda Baker, Randy Churchill, Sandy Bennett, Al Anderson, Adrian Jones

Agenda:

- 1. Approve minutes from Saratoga F2F.*
- 2. Comments on Financial Reports*
- 3. Conference report—Will*
- 4. Projects status—Joel*
- 5. F2F: standalone in January or something different? Proposal from Will and Joel*
- 6. Approve corporate resolution—Joel*
- 7. Transition discussion—Joel and Will*

Saratoga minutes. John made motion to approve the minutes Chris seconded, motion carried.

Financial reports. Joel mentioned that financial reports were addressed at some length on the executive-committee call. Joel asked Sandy to summarize the financial discussion from the Monday Exec Com-meeting. Will - all indications are that we will end the year in the black and may even earn 20-30K. Publications and interest income made up some of the slack from member dues. However, we did have to take funds from the lifetime membership fund. Sandy - December should be a break even month. Sandy recommends taking any surplus this year and reimbursing the lifetime membership fund. Will still waiting for some funds from the Business Council, but that is a definite possibility. \$6,500 liability for tours for the China trip. Will probably see a check from USDA Forest Service for the Talledega

project before the end of the month. In summary we are in substantially better shape than we were this time last year.

Randy asked about the budget for next year - is the apprentice program listed in the budget? Will answers that no apprenticeship is a stand alone, self-funded item. Revision 5 of the budget is available for review and Will and Joel are looking for comments and feedback ASAP. Sandy's comments on the 2010 budget are that where we had tremendous success last year it should be plausible for this year, and similarly where we had disappointments and negative effects we should be proactive and try to change it for this year. Sandy cited the tremendous success of projects last year, also the big positive in sales. Will cites the success of saw bases and carts as well as the Sketchup publication. Joel, the 2009 budget was balanced by cutting hours and salaries.

The projects budget consists of \$39K for Talledega and the rest is optimism. Joel - the projects committee has become more conservative about only showing projects that are confirmed, although there are a number of others that are highly likely to come through. In general we're over performing in event preparation as compared to 3-5 years ago. Lead time on projects can be 4 or more years, but contracts rarely get signed more than 8 months out. Brenda notes that non-profits are frequently taking a worse hit than business re: project prospects. Sandy - we're financially in a position not to have to be totally risk adverse in terms of project prospects. Al says that the journeyman should be in position to lead some projects as the apprenticeship program gets going. Will notes that without a project coordinator, we have to make sure that project needs don't impact running the office and completing the transition. John says that we need a plan for pursuing and developing projects. Chris says it has been done in the past and proved to be an expensive exercise. The paradigm has been that the projects that come to the Guild through members and contacts have been highly effective. Sandy suggests that we should probably be looking for some new income streams. It was agreed that this is an important topic for the F2F.

Collin asked who sits on the Executive Committee. Joel, responded that it consisted of the EDs and Board Officers. Collin asked what the responsibilities of a Board member are. Brenda will send the new members a roles and responsibilities document outlining what's expected of Board members. Will said that there is a Board manual that will be sent out before the F2F since the F2F is so late.

Will - Saratoga Conference summary. The conference netted \$15K, less than budget goal of \$22, but definitely better than break even. The auction did better than expected. The smaller program was well received and will probably be followed again in Coeur d'Alene. Surveys have been sent out and responses to date have been favorable. Al would like to see a summary of the feedback when it comes in. All agree that the conference was very successful.

Western Conference will feature a lot of European and Oriental sessions. Ma Binjiang from China will be the keynote. Jenifer Anthony has a great proposal for a session on ideal relationship with your engineer. Still have room for 4-5 more presentations. Today was the deadline, and 2-3 proposals came in today. Will probably have a natural plaster demonstrator. Still need some folks for veteran voices. Will is traveling to Ft. Warden tomorrow for a potential spring 2011 rendezvous, workshop etc. for a sawmill or wood drying shed, as well as meetings on apprenticeship program.

Brenda talked about this week's conference committee meeting and recommendation to the BOD. 2011 expected to be the year for one large conference with a trade show, and one conference without a trade show (but will have opportunities for demonstrations). Grove Park Inn in Asheville may be a possibility and Burlington, VT is consistently mentioned for large Eastern Conference.

Al asked if there are any anticipated joint PTN/TFG projects for 2010, and Joel mentioned two in the works, but not far enough along yet to bring up, except that they would be low budget and low impact for TFG, but high in cool factor and location.

Joel, requests a vote on the corporate resolution incorporating TFG in NH, so bank accounts, etc. can be opened, Sandy moves to accept. Passes unanimously.

Joel, discussed the sense of the Exec. Committee to follow Joel and Will's recommendation to skip the stand alone F2F and hold a one day F2F at the Western Conference for a savings of approximately \$6K. Brenda has located a house in Coeur d'Alene that sleeps up to 12 people for \$200/night. Sandy mentioned that it might be less harried to have the F2F after the Conference. The consensus was that after the conference might be better, although there are significant advantages to having the meeting before the conference. John pointed out that the F2F in Saratoga the Board strongly endorsed the idea of having a stand alone F2F, and that it appeared that there was a turn around based solely on the

economics. Sandy concurred on the value of the January F2F. The transition, the apprenticeship program and the turnover on the Board were all cited as important issues highlighting the need for a January F2F.

Sandy, if we decide that we have an important justification for not having a balanced budget, we have the means to do so. After discussion, consensus moved toward having the January F2F. Brenda has researched options including Phoenix and Fort Warden. Proposed dates are January 22-24.

Meeting adjourned 8:28pm.