

Meeting Space Proposal

Motivation for this proposal: Through our discussions, both formal and informal, a few things are clear.

1. We are outgrowing the space in Kayak's.
2. Private meeting space will help facilitate meetings and add a level of professionalism to the branch.
3. At least theoretically, the meeting space will cost (significantly) less than what we are currently spending on food and drinks at Kayak's.
4. The primary apprehension is that this would be by far the largest recurrent expenditure the branch has ever taken, and a commitment to that seems potentially problematic, especially given this branches history of falling back on dues, personal financial issues, etc.

So the consensus appears to be that we would benefit substantially from the space, but the cost, and moreover the commitment to the expenditure, is cause for concern. So ideally, we would like to explore our involvement in a temporary capacity, with no risk to over-committing our finances, and test funding strategies to see if they are sustainable. We can do this by raising the money beforehand for our temporary commitment (so we know we won't be organizing emergency bake sales), and keeping that separate from other branch finances. We then would still fund the meeting space with whichever strategy we decide on (as though we didn't have the money allotted for it), and 2/3 into the allotted time, we would review how our funding strategy is working, if it is sustainable, and then vote to extend our time in the meeting space indefinitely. So the proposal is as follows:

1. Raise the necessary funds (\$150) in a "building fund" to cover three months worth of meeting space at the World Community Center.
2. Commit to three months worth of meeting space at the World Community Center.
3. Enact a funding strategy (to be discussed and voted on separately, a potential proposal will be included below).
4. After 2 months, we review the success of our funding strategy, and if our "building fund" is below the initial \$150, we vote either to change our funding strategy or end our trial period to the World Community Center after the initial three month time, and look elsewhere for meeting space.
5. If during the 2 month review, our funding strategy is working, the "building fund" is at or above the initial \$150, and the strategy seems to be sustainable, we can vote to extend the time at the World Community Center either for a longer duration or indefinitely.

Funding Strategy Proposal

For the World Community Center, we need to raise \$50-\$60 per month in order to sustain the meeting space. This amounts to \$12.00 - \$12.50 per meeting (I know that that number is occasionally inaccurate, but it is accurate often enough that it should be our target). With 6 active members locally this amounts to \$2.09 per member per meeting, or \$10 per member per month. Keep in mind this is FAR less than what we currently spend at Kayak's individually. There are three basic ways that I can think of to raise the money.

1. **Local monthly dues:** This has the upside of simply taking care of the finances by us all paying \$9 or \$10 per month in local dues and just covering the cost without any more thought. However, this has a downside of relying on dues being paid ON TIME all the time. I know from personal experience, this is not always possible. Further, it spreads the cost evenly among folks who have different levels of income, and thus different capacities for making payments on time every month.
2. **Passing the Hat:** If we take a collection every meeting we can spend probably half of what we all normally spend at Kayak's and easily cover the \$12.50, and if everyone just tries to bring \$3 at least (\$5 solidarity), we can cover the cost no problem. This has the downside of having to keep up with the cost on a weekly rather than monthly basis (also meaning slightly more work for the finance officer). Also, when individual comrades are unable to make a meeting, then the other members have a higher responsibility. I personally propose this, due to the fact that it would involve the smallest amount of change from our current personal expenditures plus we would have a more "real time" view of how our funding strategy is working. Further, this allows flexibility (being short one week, and making up for it the next week for instance).
3. **Monthly Fundraiser:** This is my least favorite option. It would turn fighting fund parties almost into a chore because we would need to make a certain amount at each party, and we would have to have a party once a month at least. On the other hand though, it would be by far the most recreational and flexible way of raising the money. Plus, it could work as a form of outreach to get contacts to come to fundraisers. I do think that this is not consistent enough to be a sustainable plan. Building fundraisers could work, say twice a year, to cover the shortage of funds from passing the hat on times when we take a break from meetings.

Bonus Proposal

Provided we get through our trial period, we should have a surplus in the building fund, I would also like to get a projector or a decent camera for livestreaming. We can discuss using those funds for that purpose later.