# Community Housing Expansion of Austin

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

August 29, 2016

Genieva Croley calls the meeting to order at 8:07 pm

In attendance, constituting a quorum:

Genieva Croley - Chair

Joshua Sabik - Treasurer

Liz Hester - At-large

Madeline Hillsmith - Secretary

#### Review of Minutes from August 1, 2016

The Board considers the minutes from August 1, 2016

**Motion to approve the minutes (Madeline/Liz)**

Accepting: 4

Rejecting: 0

Abstaining: 0

The motion passes by consensus.

#### Treasurer report

Josh: I have plate of food in my hand. It’s a good thing we didn’t hire someone on the 1st of the fiscal year. We had a Finance working group meeting and are closing the books for the previous year. I’m still not a signer on the bank account but the bills are getting paid. Mission Capital’s invoice is still outstanding. Madeline needs to become a signatory, we’re gonna get with Gus about it.

#### Hiring Process

The Board then considered the hiring timeline, attached as “Exhibit A.”

* The possibility of bringing in a staff member as an independent contractor is brought up. It is unlikely that we can do that based on the nature of the job description.
* Genieva emails D. Miller asking for a recommendation for an attorney to oversee the hiring process.
* We have been budgeting for this since July, so we can afford to hire an attorney.
* The timeframe should be kept the same, with the hiring process beginning the Board meeting after the attorney consultation.
* The Secretary takes a few minutes to write notes while Genieva makes jokes about cum

**Motion to postpone the initiation of the hiring process until after legal consultation [Liz/Madeline]**

Accepting: 4

Rejecting: 0

Abstaining: 0

The motion passes by consensus.

#### Agenda Item 2

The Board then considered the nominations for the NASCO Hall of Fame for Daniel Miller and the CHEA Founders, attached as “Exhibits B and C.”

-We review discussion from the previous Voting Meeting. Genieva has prepared the applications for review.

No motion was made and the item was resolved at 8:40pm

#### CHEA Retreat

-Josh would like more accessible options, as well as a daytime option for people that can’t be there.

-We’re fine with the location for this year, but should do a post-event analysis.

-Josh looks up costs for reserving a campground at Pace Bend.

-We discuss how many cars we should take.

- We stare in silence at the cat for a few minutes.

- We will have to call them to figure out how many campers/cars we can have per campsite.

**Motion to allocate $150 for the CHEA retreat reservation and entry fee [Genieva/Josh]**

Accepting: 4

Rejecting: 0

Abstaining: 0

The motion passes by consensus

#### Action Items

The Board assigned the following action items:

Genieva - Submit applications for NASCO Hall of Fame by August 31st

Josh - Call Pace Bend regarding campgrounds & make reservation, send out info about Holocracy

Liz -

Madeline -

#### Future Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items

The Board determined the following discussion items for the Working Meeting, which was agreed to take place at 8:00pm on September 12, 2016 at Sasona:

* CHEA Retreat Logistics and Schedule
* Get an attorney/meet with attorney/legal stuff for hiring

The Board determined the following discussion items for the Voting Meeting, which was agreed to take place at 8:00pm on September 26, 2016 at La Reunion:

* Check-ins
* Review of Minutes
* Treasurer update
* Hiring process
* CHEA Retreat
* Mileage reimbursement for Board members

#### New Business

Josh observed a board meeting at an ARG retreat that operated in a way that seemed to be in line with our values (called a Holocracy) that he would like to explore and possibly have the Board receive more training on.

Liz brought up to Sasona getting reimbursed for mileage for meeting attendance. We agree to speak to our houses about it and reconvene at the voting meeting.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm.

EXHIBIT A

Proposed Timeline for Hiring CHEA Staff Member

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Post job opening with full description on various websites & in physical locations around Austin | 8/29/2016 |
| Close application period | 9/19/2016 |
| Meet to review applications and select interviewees | 9/21/2016 |
| Interview applicants | 9/26/2016 |
| Determine final applicant and extend offer | 10/3/2016 |
| Begin training | 10/17/2016 |

EXHIBIT B

1. Daniel Miller
2. CHEA nominates Daniel Miller for the NASCO Co-operative hall of fame. Daniel was one of the founders of Sasona in 2001-2002, which is now a part of the Community Housing Expansion of Austin (CHEA). CHEA consists of 2 houses, La Reunion and Sasona. Currently, he still assists CHEA whenever they find themselves in a predicament and we are forever grateful.
3. As a founding member of Sasona, Daniel borrowed kitchen items from 21st Street Co-op. Sasona ran into some hiccups and faced possibly being shut down. The co-op violated zoning laws and was faulting on the mortgage. Daniel Miller reached out to NASCO properties for help, and luckily NASCO properties decided to buy Sasona. As a result, Sasona survived and grew more involved with the cooperative movement. Daniel went by the nickname Wonko, acted as labor czar, and developed Sasona’s first website. Whenever CHEA has a legal or membership concern, he provides ample resources to rectify the situation. This past year, Daniel helped us develop our zero tolerance harassment policy and grievance procedure, job description for the first CHEA employee, and he has visited the co-ops promptly to ensure we follow the Fair Housing Laws.
4. He also invented popcorn tofu. Popcorn tofu is one of the most popular and beloved foods sold at Wheatsville Co-op to this day.

EXHIBIT C

(2)Founders of CHEA

1. CHEA nominates the founding members of the Community Housing Expansion of Austin for the hall of fame. Sasona, the first house of CHEA, was founded in 2002. CHEA now consists of 2 houses, Sasona and La Reunion.
2. Sasona faced many hardships through its initial years, but the founding members held the ship up. The city was going to shut down Sasona, due to zoning laws and Sasona was faulting on the mortgage. Our Sasonies reached out to NASCO properties for help, and luckily NASCO properties decided to buy Sasona. As a result, Sasona survived and grew more involved with the cooperative movement.
3. Daniel Miller, one of the founding members, invented popcorn tofu. It’s sold at Wheatsville Co-op and is super popular during Super Bowl parties.

Source: http://wiki.sasona.org/SasonaHistory?action=AttachFile&do=get&target=Sasona+History.pdf