

TGMI Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2010

Committee Members:

Present:

E. Ross White – Vice Chairman  
Chris Harris – Member at Large  
Mehran Mostijir – 2009 Class President  
Julie Lamb – 2009 Steering Committee Member  
Vojin Janjic – 2008 Steering Committee Member  
Carolyn Estep – 2008 Steering Committee Member

Excused Absent:

Jon Zirkle – Chairman  
Lauren Hill – Past Chairman  
Georganne Martin – Member at Large  
Marilou Cook – Member at Large  
Phyllis Hodges – Member at Large  
Trish pulley – Ex Officio

Called To Order:

Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman E. Ross White at 2:35pm. The meeting was held in the James K. Polk Building, 12<sup>th</sup> floor conference room. Although there were several absent members, there was a quorum present.

Treasurer Report:

Marilou Cook was not in attendance. However, an e-mail report from Marilou reported no change in funds, the balance remains at \$1170.32.

Old Business

Mehran Mostijir and Julie Lamb reported that at the orientation for the incoming 2010 TGMI class the previous 2009 class will have 5 people speak. This will include a combination of personal testimony and experiences, what we learned, a slide show pictures from the 2009 class, and a welcome to the TGMI alumni network. If possible, Julie will present them the date for our first Alumni Luncheon conference in which they are invited. Julie will find out from Phyllis Hodges if that date is set, or can be set soon. Additionally, Christy Hollingsworth from TN Housing and Development Agency (THDA) will provide the incoming members with THDA luggage tags and helpful information about their stay at Montgomery Bell State Park. The Orientation will be at the TBI facilities on April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9-11:30am.

The next agenda item was on other alumni involvement for the 2010 TGMI class. E. Ross White reported that Lauren Hill has set the date of our cookout for the 2010 class for Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Montgomery Bell State Park. More details will come later.

E. Ross White reported on the interim newsletter that he will be preparing. This will include an article on the new roles of each of the entities dealing with TGI (UT, DOHR, and the Alumni network). He will also announce the date for the Fall Conference, which should be Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>.

A discussion was held on the possibility of UT helping the Alumni with web hosting for a directory. Although no separate meeting has been held on this issue, Vojin Janjic suggested that we need to have the directory self-populating. In other words, we could set up the database to have unique log-ins and passwords for each alumni who would be asked to populate their contact information and keep it current. We could also ask them to include which "region" they would like to be notified of alumni activities.

#### Committee Reports

- a. Community Service Report: E. Ross White reported that the Fall canoe clean-up trip was still scheduled. Mehran Mostijir reported that the organization Hands on Nashville might still be a possibility but they are looking for more individual, specific needs, not necessarily large groups to help. The committee agreed to look at the website to see if it would be something we would want to send out to the alumni network to give them the option of participating in it
- b. Events Committee: Phyllis Hodges reported the following via e-mail prior to the meeting: "The events committee has scheduled the first face-to-face meeting for **May 4**. We will be discussing brown bag lunches, Christmas breakfast and our participation in the Fall conference. I sent an email to the TGMI alumni asking for input into location and speakers for the lunches - I had one reply that requested the speakers be motivational. To date I have had no replies regarding location. Unless we get some pretty strong indication that alternate locations would draw a good attendance, we will probably plan to host three brown bags in Nashville. One in the latter part of May, one in August or early September and one in November. Please let Marilou know if there is anything that needs to be addressed when we meet on May 4." E. Ross White also has access to a spreadsheet of topics that TGMI alumni are interested that has been compiled previously.
- c. Education and Leadership Development – Marilou Cook reported via e-mail that she, E. Ross White and Mehran Mostijir met to discuss the Speaker's Bureau. Ross has signed-up a record 26 volunteers, excluding those of us on the Steering Committee that have expressed an interest. E. Ross White is gathering Bio's from all the speakers. Our plan is to contact between 5 and 6 speakers for each event, hoping to have 2-3 speakers attend a session. Each speaker should plan 8-10 slides to include as a presentation, a bio background, educational background, and how and why you came to the State. For Career Days, you'll be speaking to individual students about the benefits of working for the State, your field or

expertise, and your training or education beyond High School. In the steering Committee, it was discussed that it would be good to add a brief summary, a kind of civic lesson, on state government to in a template form for each speaker to use. That would give some continuity to all presentations but still allow the speaker to customize their discussion around their experience and job. E. Ross also mentioned that he updated Tom Konhtopp and Mary Jinks about this and they notified us that May is “Public Service” week, so we might even be able to get some media coverage about our work if we wanted to for the state.

Mehran suggested we contact Julie Perry at TRICOR for some give-aways. We would like to have things to pass out that school students will find useful – open to some ideas, here.

A contact at the Department of Education sent our information out to the Career and Technical Education Directors at state high schools and asked if anyone wanted speakers. We received response from 7 schools to date.

Our first 2 focuses are Career Day sessions: One is April 30 from 8:30 – 2:30 at Van Buren High School in Spencer (about 110 miles from Nashville). I’d like to have 4 people attend and am asking for volunteers. Please contact Ross ([ross.white@state.tn.us](mailto:ross.white@state.tn.us)) at 615-532-8278 or Marilou ([marilou.cook@tn.gov](mailto:marilou.cook@tn.gov)) 615- 741-3574 by April 20<sup>th</sup> if you’d like to participate.

The second is May 10 from 8:30 to noon at Perry County High School in Linden (about 80 miles from Nashville). They would like to have someone from TWRA pr Agriculture, TBI or State Trooper, and Engineer and IT or Business /Marketing.

We plan to build a data base of schools and speakers for easier match-ups in the future.

#### New Business

E. Ross White reported that the annual conference has a best date of September 20<sup>th</sup>. Committee is still looking for a location. Possibly at TSU, but that is still in discussion. No speakers are booked.

There was discussion around the By-laws regarding the amending or deleting of Article V, Section 1, letter G which states that the Chairperson of the Steering Committee shall...”Serve on the Department of Human Resources TGMI Selection Committee”. Since there is no longer an official committee that selects the TGMI participants and DOHR is no longer the lead agency in that selection, we need to change that language. It was suggested that instead of deleting the language all together, we change the language to read, “Serve on any TGMI Selection Committee”. This would give the structure for the alumni network to be represented on any future selection committee for TGMI. We should present this change to the entire body at the Christmas breakfast. Carolyn Estep moved to ask the bylaw committee to review the above suggestion and the motion was seconded and passed.

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E.Ross White discussed the idea of TGMI alumni serving as mentors to other state employees, either as part of the TGMI class or even outside of TGMI for state employees who want to grow professionally. The best place to start might be to mentor TGMI newcomers, we did this in previous years but haven't done it lately. May want to look at formalizing this and do a "post mentoring" for the 2010 class or future classes. There was a motion to table the discussion for the next meeting. The motion was passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50.

Regards,

Julie Lamb