

NAJC National Executive Board (NEB)

MINUTES of the March 12-13, 2005 Meeting, held in the NAJC Office, Winnipeg

Attendance:

Henry Kojima, President
George Uyeda, Vice-President
Angela Boyko, Treasurer
Grace Eiko Thomson, Secretary
Judy Hanazawa, Director
Joanne Planidin, Director
Yumi Schoenhofer, Director
Keiko Miki, Past President

Opening:

1. Call to Order, 9:00 a.m., March 12

President Henry Kojima called the meeting to order.

2. Agenda

Motion #1: To approve the agenda for the meeting.

Add to agenda: National War Museum, Reimbursement Guidelines

Moved and seconded George/Keiko

Carried

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion #2: To approve the minutes of November 20-21, 2004 National Executive Board meeting

Moved and seconded Joanne/Yumi

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Carried

Motion #3: To approve the minutes of January 7, 8, 9, 2005 National Executive Board meeting

Moved and seconded Joanne/Judy

Carried

4. Treasurer's Report

Due to the Treasurer's absence during this portion of the Meeting, the Report was deferred to a later time. Treasurer gave her report on the following morning, March 13.

Audit Committee: Janet Hirose (Winnipeg), Kenichi Araki (Ottawa), another needed in accordance with the by-law. Jim Hoyano (Edmonton) suggested.

Motion #4: To approve the Treasurer's Report.

Moved and seconded Angela/Yumi

Carried

5. Correspondence

The President reported on select correspondences received, and/or responded to, including 1) Doukhbour New Denver Survivors seeking redress requesting letter of support: sent; 2) Request for support from World Forum for Peace Society 2006, letter of support sent to City of Vancouver; 3) Masako Fukawa's Japanese Canadian Heritage Network Project booklets received; 4) Letter from National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre, Robert Banno's letter of application for \$50,000: sent; 5) local email regarding Salisbury House, a restaurant granted space on the Walking Bridget at the Forks, which connects St. Boniface to Winnipeg, and the issue of the word 'nip' used in their menu: not responded.

6. President's Report

- Reported on various meetings he attended, including CBC Manitoba, on diversity in broadcasting, Manitoba Ethnocultural Advisory Council.
- NAJC AGM. Yumiko Hoyano requested the meeting date to be the October 1st weekend. May 13-14 meeting of NEB in Vancouver to be in preparation for the AGM. Erid: timelines for resolutions, etc., so members may respond; receive nominations for national NAJC biannual awards (deadline end of June)
- Erid's resignation, and need to advertise in local Outlook at end of month.

- Rental revenue. Tenant left without paying last month's rent, new tenant to be found.
- Robert Bessler, Small Claims Court, in hands of a lawyer. Update given. Settlement conference to be held in Vancouver May 12th with President personally attending, and teleconferencing with a Winnipeg lawyer. Judge has authority to dismiss or continue the claim.

7. Committee Reports/Other Topics

- *Constitution*: Keiko Miki's report on concerns from last AGM. Timelines to be set for notices to be sent.

Motion #5: To reconvene the Constitution Committee to review the Constitution and By-laws.

***Moved and seconded: Keiko/Joanne
Carried***

- *Membership*: Recommendations made to November Meeting of the Board, to be reviewed. George will contact the committee, including Keiko Miki (Winnipeg, Ron Nishimura (Winnipeg), KO (Calgary), KH (Hamilton), Yumi Schoenhofer (Ottawa). Main focus is recruitment.
- *Endowment Fund*: Need for appropriate promotion discussed. Promotion of what NAJC does.
- *Expo 2005 (Nagoya) Web-site*: Japanese Canadians Then and Now. \$40,000 Gateway Fund received. Technician hired, advisory committee (Tracy Matsuo, Takeo Yamashiro, Roy Miki, Grace Eiko Thomson, Yusuke Tanaka, Keiko Miki) met with Art Miki, chair of the project yesterday. NAJC site to be present at Expo, the web-site to be continued after Expo, costs of maintenance, updating, and space to be considered.
- *Budget/Process*: President offered to review and develop and to send to NEB for feedback.
- *COPANI/PANA*: 1) Ron Nishimura, President of GJVCCA, and Keiko Miki, Past Chair, NAJC are co-chairs. Problems of division of work due to geographic separation discussed. Keiko suggested more work may be done by Erid, particularly on web-site. Budget set to include one representative from each geographic centre. Invitations to officials and dignitaries to be discussed with Henry. 2) Judy gave a report on the structural aspects, including space, sound systems, menu, events, workshops, including youth, web-site linkages, volunteer coordination, plenary, speakers, fundraising, and language issues. Official languages are currently set at English and Spanish. Yumi offered to translate some aspects into Japanese. Packages have gone to local centres. GJVCCA expected to hire a student under the HRDC program. 3) Outline of COPANI XIII Opening Plenary—Other Special Events submitted.
- *Human Rights*: Reports given by George Uyeda, Keiko Miki, and Judy Hanazawa, respectively. 1) President raised the questions of need for process when President received requests for human rights support or endorsement. 2) HR booklet: Kaori Sato left for Japan, project now left to committee to produce the book. Process discussed, HR information sources, funding sources, deadlines, status of grant, budget, subcommittee work (Nobby), software work (Mike Murakami). 3) George raised Sun Peak issue as a delicate matter locally as communities are divided. Letter from NAJC not to come between, but sent urging government to sit down towards resolution. No response. Follow-up needed. President Kojima to write a letter clarifying position of NAJC to Kamloops local chapter. 3) Issue of whether HRCCommittee should be reimbursed to participate at PANA was raised. Vote was taken of the NEB, and majority favoured HRC be treated in the same manner as all COPANI participants. 4) Teleconference meetings are being held monthly instead of every second month at this time. 5) Issue of same-sex marriage. Judy reported on Winnipeg HRC workshop and recommended local workshops. George and Joanne raised the issues of local reality, each locality's need to make own decision. Concern regarding NEB position. Is this a human rights issue, relevant to NAJC mandate? Henry suggested this be a work in progress, on how to proceed, and he will begin the process of discussion by email.
- *Canadian Museum of Human Rights*: discussion deferred to later time.

Keiko Miki reported that Gail Asper, chair lobbying for the Museum in Winnipeg now looking for local representations rather than proceeding from the personal. Recommendation: President to send another letter from the NAJC strongly endorsing the project and encouraging government to move forward on this, with copies to our own communities, and to JC media.

- *Daien Ide*: discussion deferred to second day. Report received from Ron Nishimura, GVJCCA President regarding status of this matter, including information that a Trust Fund is being set up by an ad hoc committee to raise funds on Daien's behalf. Recommendation: Letter of support be sent by NAJC president in support of this project, and Henry will let Ron know by phone. Yumi suggested that communities be informed.
- *Asahi Baseball Project*: President reported on the letter received from NNM&HC, requesting \$30,000, and his response reiterating the original understanding the total of \$60,000 offered was a contingency fund. Requested supplemental information .

8. New Business

Reimbursement Guidelines (in Policy Manual): Changes in wording, ie., "Treasurer and Executive Director", change to "President". Erid to clean up other languages and second paragraph addition. Proposal that some NEB members may book through Erid, rather than directly on their own. Discussion on accommodation was raised whether there is an issue regarding Executive Board Members requesting a single room, rather than a shared one which has been a policy to date. This was left as a matter of choice. Request for change of hotel was made due to problems with Ramada Marlborough. Land mileage was tabled.
New War Museum. Yumi reports that the opening is May 8, 2005. She will attend as the NAJC representative.

9. Action Plan Reports

Preliminary, or work in progress, textual reports were submitted by each coordinator and discussed. Some overlap of actions, and sharing of information, were noted.

- a. Identifying Experts. Grace submitted a report on the progress of this Action Plan which is in the process of identifying individuals and institutions towards outcomes. She also submitted a report on the status of Powell Street Festival Society, as one of the institutions having potential for participation in this program. Her report requests the NEB to consider this institution as to its value to our national community, since it is (and has experienced in the past) problems of survival.
- b. Demographic Study. Joanne submitted a preliminary report including an overview of Dr. Audrey Kobayashi's studies. Suggestions were offered
- c. Emerging Leaders Forum. Angela reviewed the recent conference in her report, and submitted recommendations.
- d. Social Services. Yumi submitted a preliminary national resource list that would respond to issues of seniors, inter-generations, gender, and human rights, accessible in both English and Japanese.
- e. NAJC Human Rights Committee Review. A preliminary report was submitted by Keiko Miki and George Uyeda, which lists documents, poses questions, and makes recommendations, particularly with respect to process in view of the new chair being initiated for this committee.
- f. Community Strategy Proposal. Henry reported, in consultation with Joanne two questions to be addressed. First is what our role is as an association, to clearly define the role, how interpreted. Second is how do we communicate this, based on What, Why, to Whom, How, When questions.

The meeting adjourned, 11:10 a.m., March 13.

Motion #6. To adjourn

*Moved and Seconded, Joanne/Grace
Carried*