

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, MARCH 27-28, 2010
Delta Chelsea Hotel, Toronto

Saturday, March 27

Present: Terumi Kuwada (chair), Masa Kagami, Takashi Ohki, Steven Seller, Pamela Sugiman, Alan Tanaka, Grace Eiko Thomson

Regrets: Angela Foreman

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

1. Grace Eiko Thomson was appointed as recorder for this meeting.

2. Agenda.

Masa Kagami requested addition of GJVCCA request to the agenda under Human Rights. Terumi Kuwada requested her meeting with Ayman Yassini, CRRF, be added.

Motion: To accept the Agenda with additions. Moved by Takashi Ohki. Seconded by Masa Kagami. Carried.

3. The Minutes were declared as already accepted via email. Moved by Takashi Ohki. Seconded by Masa Kagami. Carried. – by email

4. Business Arising out of the Minutes.

Website: With reference to the Motion made at the last meeting, i.e., that the ad hoc website committee moves that a proposal for expanding and editing the web page be presented to the NEB for approval in two weeks, made by Takashi Ohki, seconded by Pam Sugiman and carried, due to legal issues, instead of the “two weeks” suggestion was made that at least two months will be necessary to produce such proposal for presentation to the NEB for approval.

BREAK 10:00 A.M.

5. Members of the Toronto area Ken Noma, Mike Murakami, and Bill Kobayashi attended individually and each made a presentation to the Board.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING 11:00 A.M.

4. Business Arising out of the Minutes (continued)

Steve Sellers presented draft Terms of Reference for the Community Development Committee, Human Rights Committee, and for (the proposed) Heritage Committee. He noted that the HRC Terms of Reference reiterates what is already in place in the NAJC Constitution/Bylaws binder. Issues of guidelines for budget formulation for committees/task force were raised for inclusion. Steve will also be creating the Terms of Reference for the remaining committees. Grace Eiko Thomson reminded members that currently there is no Heritage Committee in place, but a Heritage Task Force.

6. Executive Reports

a) Terumi Kuwada's written report was submitted previously to the NEB. To date, no response has been received from the TRC. Terumi envisions that the NAJC might assist the TRC, by hosting educational workshops in the Japanese Canadian communities, to raise awareness about the issues related to the residential school survivors. Masa Kagami reminded the board of the April 8th ribbon cutting ceremony in Winnipeg.

b) Past President's Report. Grace Eiko Thomson drew attention particularly to two attached reports one on the ongoing work being done with Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre, responding to their request for assistance. Second report attached is on the ad hoc committee's progress on the position paper re JC representation.

c) Vice President/Chair of HRC Report.

Submitted by Masa Kagami.

Motion: That the NEB support the letter of support against the closure of three (Halifax, Vancouver, Toronto) regional offices of the Canadian Human Rights Commission. Moved by Masa Kagami. Seconded by Pamela Sugiman. Carried.

As the second added item on the HRC report, Masa Kagami presented to the board a draft letter on the issue of funding stop to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. The request came from the Greater Vancouver JCCA HRC which prepared the draft to be sent to Chuck Strahl, the minister in charge. Due to lack of the background information and time, it was decided that this be discussed later.

Adding to the HRC report by Masa Kagami, Terumi Kuwada offered information regarding a meeting she attended at the CRRF, with Director Ayman Al-Yassini. Dr. Al-Yassini apologized for the fact that the CRRF and NAJC had not maintained a close connection over the years. He felt that recent organizational and staff changes would improve the contact and that it was his hope that the two organizations would work more collaboratively together. He was going to recommend to the Board of the CRRF that it become an Associate Member of the NAJC. The name of Masa Kagami, as Chair of NAJC HRC, was offered to Dr. Yassini for future communications.

Motion: That Masa Kagami collaborate with the Canadian Race Relations Foundation regarding a symposium on bias and racism to be held in Montreal in May, and which will include aboriginal issues.

Moved by Pam Sugiman. Seconded by Steve Seller.

Carried

d) Treasurer's Report

Takashi Ohki walked the members through his reports. He confirmed the completion of the transfer of funds to Connor, and the processes of reporting between the various positions to meet deadlines are now pretty well in place, and that he is looking into speeding up the process of the Annual Statement, to finish by the end of June. The major cautionary note was in spending.

e) Secretary's Report

In the absence of Angela Foreman, Steve Seller gave the Secretary's Report. Regarding the CDC Pilot Project, he confirmed that eight applications were received.

Motion: That all applicants receive the amount of \$2,000 each to fulfill their project application.

Moved by Steve Seller. Seconded by Masa Kagami.

Carried

7. Directors' Report

a) Director Alan Tanaka stated that his Report on the trip to Japan in February 2010 under Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), for which he had been selected, will be submitted in due course. As Membership Committee Chair, he reported that he had been speaking with various people during the past months, including Kevin Okabe of Calgary (who submitted his thoughts). Alan submitted a proposal to address a potential unifying theme that is common in a large part of our membership, and will continue communication toward clarifying what the common motivations are toward strategic planning.

b) Director Pam Sugiman submitted a report on her attendance at the conference on Truth, Reconciliation and the Residential Schools at Nipissing University, North Bay, Ontario. Hitomi Suzuta (HRC) also attended. Pam will be disseminating information to the academic communities, and to NAJC.

8. Reports

a) Constitutional Committee

Steve Seller stated that he has nothing to report at this time.

Terumi Kuwada suggested the need for a Constitutional Rules and Order Chair for the AGM

b) Endowment Committee

Terumi Kuwada reported that the vacancies in this Committee are now filled by Mike Murakami (graphic designer, Toronto) and Oliver Oike (graphic designer, Winnipeg).

c) Canadian War Museum

Grace Eiko Thomson reported that since there has been no response from the Director of the CWM since the last meeting in June 2009, she suggested that we now await the completion of the ad hoc committee's report.

d) *ad hoc* committee

NEB members concurred that when the ad hoc committee's draft Position Paper on JC Representation is completed, it will be reviewed and given final approval by the NEB only, and that Membership approval is not required.

e) Heritage Task Force

The work being done by the ad hoc committee on JC representation falls under the Heritage Task Force's mandate. Steve Seller has offered his assistance in producing a Motion for a standing Heritage Committee for the next AGM.

Sunday, March 28, 9:00 a.m.

9.

a) AGM Expenditures

Discussion ensued around guidelines and the budget for the AGM, re costs of travel, per diem, etc., with the aim toward keeping the expenditures down.

Takashi Ohki suggested that the NAJC tax return can be submitted even in a non-finalized format before the deadline and thus avoid a penalty fee, which NAJC has been paying so far every year in the amount of some \$260. This is one way of saving cost in running the NAJC.

b) Nominations slate

Nominations Committee members are Henry Kojima, Cathy Tennant, and Pam Sugiman. Three members (Grace Eiko Thomson, Pam Sugiman, and Masa Kagami) of the current board submitted that they will not be running in the next election, and the President submits that she will be stepping down.

c) Office Space and Administration

Terumi Kuwada reported on the situation regarding office space, its move to 222 Osborne a year ago, and the current pressure to leave or sign a lease. Other options were introduced for consideration. The best offer on the table is one offered by Social Planning Council of Winnipeg which has recently moved to a Donald Street address, and has extra office space for rental, which may include shared equipment (copying machine) and board room.

Discussions ensued regarding not only office space required but also storage for archives. Terumi Kuwada will investigate details about the space being offered by Social Planning so the Board may move to some decision.

d) Historical markers

Recognition and designation of historic sites are matters best dealt with by the concerned region, through due processes available.

e) Japan issues

Grace Eiko Thomson raised the issue regarding what is national, and what is international, when we speak about Japan. We embrace and import Japanese culture, with support from Endowment Funds, etc., as a part of our heritage, but with respect to human rights issues as occurring in Japan and internationally, some members draw a line as not of concern to Japanese Canadians. She thinks we should at least be aware and think about such contradictory positions, especially since we are a community that had issues with

and resolved issues of human/civil rights within our own country, and live in a multicultural society of people from all parts of the world with memories of their home countries and their past.

f) Website issues

The current website which received funding in 2004-5 from the Government of Canada (originating for use at the Nagoya Expo Canada Pavilion) had certain conditions attached to the funding, which had not been followed through. Kevin Fukawa, NAJC server, will be contacted to participate in this reporting.

With respect to French translation, Steve Seller and Takashi Ohki will identify what general information about the NAJC may be translated (with assistance of translation requested from Nicole Seller(?)), and a note to the effect that any further information which may be requested will be posted.

g) CMHR submission to Museum

Terumi Kuwada will be in contact with the CMHR person responsible for the content of the various exhibits, to determine what design and form it will take. Further discussions will then take place with the NEB and HRC regarding the NAJC submission to the CMHR.

h) Yusuke Tanaka – Earth Spirit Festival. Dr. Kuwayama

Yusuke Tanaka is proposing that NAJC should hold another Earth Spirit Festival (earlier held in 1991) in collaboration with Aboriginal communities. NEB members were not able to make any recommendations about this proposal, without specifics and questioned when the event was being proposed—this year or next? Terumi agreed to contact Yusuke to convey our comments and questions.

i) HOP conference – post publications, copyright, etc.

Motion: That permission is given to GJVCCA to use the data and information from the HOP conference, toward their DVD/booklet publication project, and that NAJC Board members Pam Sugiman and Terumi Kuwada will review the final draft and offer comments for their consideration.

Moved by Masa Kagami. Seconded by Pam Sugiman.

Carried.

Masa Kagami reported that the HOP template, for use by other organizations, is still under revision but will be finished soon.

10. Strategic Planning for next 7 months

Discussion ensued following yesterday's report by Membership Chair, Alan Tanaka.

Alan Tanaka's proposal is to focus on a common theme--drawing from the past, and moving into the future, identifying the philosophy/activity, for dissemination to the younger community; and then coordinating and developing the theme to be presented to the AGM.

Motion: That the NAJC unify, promote, preserve and sustain the roots of being a Japanese Canadian, through the history of Japanese Canadians, using written works,

interviews, and other means of preserving the history and culture, including active engagement with the membership.

Moved by Alan Tanaka. Seconded by Steve Sellers.

Carried.

11. New Business.

12. Toronto NAJC Chapter, Charlotte Chiba and Nobi Nakamura attended and made presentations.

13. Motion: That the meeting be adjourned. Moved by Masa Kagami. Seconded by Steve Seller. Adjournment 12:15 p.m.