

## ORNCC Board Meeting 04-17-2010

**Present:** Board members Chuck, Gary, Fred, Steve, and Governing Council members Teresa Farrell, and Stuart Watson who arrived at 11:00am and left around noon.

**Next meeting:** May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, 10:00am – 12:00pm. This meeting will be a Skype voice meeting.

### Check in

#### Set Agenda for this meeting:

1. Review database use.
2. Vision and mission in a Post-Marshall world.
3. What do we do about complaints about trainers?
4. Relationship with the governing council.
5. Board member selection and organization revitalization.
6. Providing scholarships to the Educator's Institute for Oregon Teachers.

**Board Relationship with the Governing Council.** Because we were expecting Stuart Watson to join us at 11:00am we first discussed agenda item 4, the relationship between the board and the governing council. From this discussion we decided to ask the following questions of governing council members who might attend the meeting:

Questions for attending governing council members:

What was the initial impetus for creating the current board/governing council structure?

What do you believe you will accomplish being a member of the governing council?

What criteria would you use to select board/governing council members?

Are you aware of the frustration that has been generated by the current structure?

At 11:00am we were joined by both Stuart Watson and Teresa Farrell. Teresa reported that she is now the liaison between the board and governing council; Michael Dreiling has resigned as liaison. We then began by reading the four questions we derived above and we received the following answers.

### Responses

1. *Are you aware of frustration?* Stuart reported that he is not aware of frustration. Teresa reported that she is aware of the frustration and has stated that since she is now the liaison with the governing council that the switch to her from Michael may serve to enhance our communication.

2. *What was the impetus for the current board/council structure?* Teresa/Stuart stated that the current structure was required in order to satisfy the 501c3 requirements. This structure was chosen instead of creating a voting membership because they were unable to understand how a

voting membership would support the organization. They reported that initially they asked Karen Campbell and John Cunningham to be on the first council.

3. *What are you hoping to accomplish as a member of the council?* – Stuart: Connection and support, but without inspiration. Teresa: we may not know what we do as the governing council and for me, I want to continue to offer support and remain connected. Both stated that they wanted to give less time to the organization, and to travel less than in the past, and both wanted a way to stay connected. They stated that they still hold the vision but have less time that they want to devote to achieving it. “We see the governing council as a wisdom council that can provide advice, encouragement, and empathy, along with finding new board members. In the past we have selected those that self-selected. We will also be willing to mediate board conflicts.”

Stuart: how do we bring life to this structure? Steve: we are wondering how to create a post-Marshall world. Stuart: we always had a broader view than just organizing trainings with Marshall, but we have not achieved it yet. We would like to have created a relationship among local trainers that would have supported an integrated set of offerings. We wanted to support accessibility, especially among those that may not have the resources to access these tools. We wanted to take advantage of inspiring events such as visiting trainers by creating a follow up system that would catch those that become inspired by the visiting trainers. We wanted to create an integrative community that included community events, local introductions in un-addressed areas. The conference provided inspiration, and we were less effective than we wanted to be at follow up. *How can the board support the growth of both inspiration and follow up?* We could address both arenas in a better way than we have in the past. We would like to find strategies to encourage and support interdependence and are worried about finding ways to do so.

*Board member selection: self-selection.* Gary asked them, “Would you be willing to help us select board members?” Stuart: Yes, and we want to trust that anyone that is recommended will be enlivened by the experience. At present we do not trust that what the organization has been doing lately will serve to inspire participation. We are confident, however, that if we have practical projects in front of people so that they can understand our intentions, some may be inspired to come forward to serve the organization. Once we have some programs in place it is possible that an event such as “NVC Community Days” might serve to bring greater awareness of our vision and our strategies to achieve it. Stuart stated that he may have some energy for organizing community outreach events and he stated that he would speak to Chuck on the phone about how to go forward, and then he and Chuck would contact Carol Placer for additional support. Stuart stated that in any event that is promoted by ORNNC that it is essential that not only people be inspired by the possibilities provided by NVC but that we have a structure in place that can follow up effectively and meet the desire and longings that may be stimulated in participants by the event.

*Criteria for board members?* Stuart responded that none were in place because of a “beggars cannot be choosers” worldview about board members. The current list of questions that are sent to potential members serve to provide us with knowledge about people, but do not screen them

for their skills. The Governing Council has not established criteria; the board agreed to discuss criteria at the next meeting and email Teresa these for council discussion. Stuart and Teresa agreed somewhat reluctantly to attend board meetings. Stuart suggested that one meeting out of the year be attended by both the governing council (the whole council) and the entire board. Fred agreed to send the minutes to governing council members. The minutes will include the place the next meeting will be held and a tentative agenda.

## **Board Business**

We agreed to accept the minutes of the last meeting as written. Gary reported that the mailbox key had been obtained from Megan and that he had changed the names of the responsible persons on the mailbox documents. At present both Gary and Chuck have keys to the mailbox.

Next meeting date. The next board meeting is scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Fred** will check his calendar and determine if May 22<sup>nd</sup> will work for him. The next meeting was subsequently re-scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am – 12:00pm. It will be Skype voice meeting.

Review of the action items from last meeting:

1. *Steve will contact the Governing Council and ask about their willingness to participate in our next board meeting, possibly by phone; Done.*
2. *Chuck will ask Sparrow if she is willing to take her materials to Karen's house and then Lynne Baran will contact Karen about when to perform an inventory. Sparrow said, "yes". **Chuck** will send Sparrow's contact information to Lynne Baran so they can coordinate transfer and inventory.*
3. *Gary will write a letter to Cascadia's Ecosystems Advocates requesting advice and an update about the Umpqua Bank boycott. We discussed the letter and agreed that the letter will contain the strategy of withdrawing our funds if in two months Cascadia has not withdrawn its boycott in two months time. **Fred** agreed to type the letter on ORNCC letterhead and, then send it to Umpqua bank addressed from the ORNCC board secretary.*
4. *Fred will make a list from the old charge slips and try to find contact information for those who made the charges. Fred will craft a letter with Gary's help requesting donations. The charge slips turned out to be from a 2005 workshop and Fred confirmed from one attendee that his credit card was charged. We decided to shred the stack.*
5. *Fred will contact USPS about proofing our database for accuracy. USPS does not provide this service. We can include the words, "Address Correction Requested" on any envelope we send and USPS will update changed addresses for a fee.*
6. *Steve, Fred, and Chuck will send Gary their ideas about a letter to Oregon trainers asking what they would want from ORNCC including whether a trainer's conference would be desirable. Gary received feedback and is crafting an update to send to the trainers.*

7. *Fred will contact Jean Morrison and Sura Hart about a potential collaboration with the Teacher's Institute. Sura and Jean welcomed collaboration and will be glad to extend our offerings to Oregon teachers that attend the Institute.*
8. *Fred will contact Carol Placer and/or Michelle DeLude about their idea of a NVC Community Day. Carol stated that she and Michelle have not gone forward with this idea. She states that she has energy for it and that she would need support in order to go forward.*

## **Oregon Prison Project Report**

Fred and Steve reported that they have recruited five volunteer instructors in the Portland area who are excited to participate in the Oregon Prison Project. Prison clearances have been requested for them and the first Teaching Team meeting is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>. Fred also reports that he will be offering a workshop for Salem area trainers interested in teaching inside and that five have come forward willing to do so. Further, the prison project collaboration with Phoenix Rising Transitions is going forward with Portland trainers being screened for entry into Columbia River Prison, and we are preparing to offer an introduction to NVC for Phoenix staff and participants. **Fred** will craft a project description including a few photos and **Chuck** will then place it on the ORNCC website

## **Agenda continued**

1. **Educator's Institute collaboration as a project.** We agreed to sponsor this project with \$500.00 seed money. We will give \$125.00 each to the first four educators from the ORNCC service area that complete the institute and apply for the funds. **Fred** agreed to craft an announcement to send to schools; once finished it will be sent to the board for feedback. Once approved **Fred** will send it to local known schools and **Chuck** will list it on the website.
2. **Vision and mission in a Post-Marshall world.** Put over to May
3. **Trainer Complaints.** Put over to May.
4. **Social action and ORNCC mission.** We discussed how to express our values without challenging our capacity to mediate between parties that may be requesting support for their differences. We agreed to spend time in contemplation over the next month and will bring back the discussion in May.
5. **Board member selection and revitalization.** Put over to May.
6. **Database use.** Chuck stated that he still had concerns about collecting information that would not have a use. We revisited our agreement/resolution to sponsor projects in an effort to revitalize the organization in such a way that we would benefit from collecting full contact information so that we can connect in a multitude of ways with those wanting to support us.

## **Action Items:**

**Fred** will craft an announcement for the Oregon Educator's Project and will send it to the board for approval. Once approved, **Fred** will send it to local schools and **Chuck** will list it on the website.

**Fred** will produce a potentially finished draft of the letter to Umpqua bank and will send it to the board for approval prior to sending it to Umpqua bank headquarters.

**Steve** will contact Selene and check her status.

**Chuck** will contact the Bend group and ask if they would like to report during one of our board meetings about their actions.

#### Future Agenda Items

1. Criteria for board members.
2. Format for board minutes.

#### Closing