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## AFRC minutes 03/05-06/2016

Activity Fee Review Committee

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# **AFRC Hearing Minutes - ANNUAL ALLOCATIONS**

March 5 – 6, 2016

Saturday March 5, 2016

In attendance: Dave Swenson (DS), Laddie Arnold (LA), Blake Gerold (BG), Clement Loo (CL), Tom Ladner (TL), Melinda Wolney (MW), Sarah Ashkar (SA), Carleigh Swanson (CS), Christi Perkinson (CP), Marcy Prince (MP).

The meeting began at 4:32 p.m.

We have to cut \$51,000 from requests this year to break even. This weekend is going to be painful. The committee is recommended to cut funds from groups who are projecting a small carry-forward but have historically had a larger carry-forward, and to ask lots of questions about the details of budgets. The balance will be hidden from the committee until all hearings are completed to ensure the least amount of bias for groups that are in the later time slots.

## **Hearings**

### **KUMM**

The budget is largely the same as last year. Most of the money going towards the organization goes to operating costs, paying organizations for rights, and concerts. They are planning on bringing back a stipend that they had previously cut. The org has a large carry-forward right now, and they want to have that money available to them so they can buy a new computer if the current one breaks. They've been having issues with it crashing, so that's a real possibility.

BG motioned to fund at \$8,200. CL seconded. Motion passed.

### **CAC Films**

The organization shows films around campus once a month. They have started collaborating with other groups to provide more diverse experiences. The organization also wants to improve their advertising. They've had better attendance recently through advertising and better, more current movies. Their request is the same as last year though.

SA asked if they give away the shirts. CAC treats them as prizes at events. They tried selling them in the past, but it wasn't very successful. They figure people who come to events are more likely to wear the shirts.

The group averages about 35 people per event. LA asked if the group considers that a significant number. The org leaders said that they believe it's important to provide an on-campus alternative to partying or other events that may not appeal to every student.

When the org collaborates with other groups, the CAC members are there more as support staff for putting on a movie, and the other group pays for the movie rights.

SA asked about the "food at meetings" line item. The org has food at end of semester meetings, and when they have volunteers working on things like Rocky Horror Picture Show kits.

BG motioned to fund at \$8000. MP seconded. Motion passed.

### **MCSA**

The group's budget is largely the same. They itemized some food to get a better picture of how they're spending their money. The line item for "food for impromptu events" is for if MCSA is asked to co-sponsor an event, or if they have unexpected costs for planned events.

SA asked if, since faculty and staff are going to more involved in lobbying, there were other ways to fund Lobby Day. The Twin Cities campus is paying for the bus expenses in the future, so that line item was taken out of the budget proposal. SA suggested, as a staff person, that staff contribute \$5 or so to help with the bus costs.

MP motioned to fund at \$7,650. CL seconded. Motion passed. LA abstained.

### **MoQSIE**

The budget is the same as last year. The “Travel to State Conference” had an error in the line. They didn’t buy airline tickets.

CP asked about the tshirts. They’re for club spirit and to get a little more money into the club. The club actually does make a profit off of tshirt sales.

The group is not projecting a carry-forward. They are waiting for expenses from conferences and the Drag Show. If they have a carry-forward, it will be very small.

MP motioned to fund at \$8000. BG seconded. Motion passed.

### **Chemistry Club**

The group is looking to do more with Science Sensations teaching kids at the elementary school about science. They are reaching out to other organizations to help with that. Several of the line items don’t bring in revenue, but are important to students for various reasons (O-chem shirts, discipline banquet, etc.). The group would like to provide some assistance to students going to the ACS Conference so they wouldn’t have to pay out of pocket.

SA asked about the Valentine’s Day flasks, which didn’t yield a profit. It boiled down to bad business decisions this year, so the group will plan better for next year.

LA asked about the van cost, which wouldn’t be enough to transport all of the attendees. Some attendees find other ways of traveling to the airport, and won’t ride in the van rented from the school.

SA called into question the host city transport, which seemed low. The cost was adjusted. The estimates for the ACS conference costs were based off of the costs for the Denver conference, and the next conference’s costs may vary.

TL moved to classify the travel as 3<sup>rd</sup> priority. CL seconded. Motion passed. BG abstained.

CP mentioned that they could save some money by not using university vehicles to drive to the airport, which would just be sitting at the airport costing money for the days it wasn’t being used.

The group will consider that.

The travel allocation was reduced based on the classification before. The amounts are:

40%	\$3638
50%	\$4183
60%	\$4728

SA motioned to fund at \$4728. CP seconded. Motion passed. BG abstained.

### **CAC Concerts**

The group’s budget is largely the same as last year. They have 4 concerts each year, two each semester. The org plans for feeding and putting up every band even if they don’t end up spending the money. The org also lost money on tshirts because the company they ordered from went out of business and did not return the money CAC had already spent on shirts.

LA asked about the fact that they’ve planned for sell-out shows when they very likely won’t sell out. They have other smaller events that make up for the potential cost.

BG motioned to fund at \$23, 840. MP seconded. Motion passed.

### **Student Activities**

The Student Activities Office is in the red this year because of an unforeseen increase in office supplies, as well as accommodating for the minimum wage increase.  
MP motioned to fund at \$38,582. BG seconded. Motion passed.

### **Black Student Union**

The budget is largely the same as last year, but they added the cost of a diversity conference in St. Cloud in February of next year. They are working on the details of the conference.

The Soul Food Dinner revenue wasn't included in the budget, so the \$500 revenue from that was added.

The group estimates around \$2,200 to be used for the remainder of the semester. The group is expected to have at least a \$1600 carry forward for next year after accounting for the cost of the Soul Food Dinner.

SA checked on the price of the conference hotel, and modified the hotel costs in the budget. LA asked if they students would be expected to cover the cost of registration, and the group said that that would be reasonable.

The travel line item includes Africa Night and the conference travel costs.

BG motioned to fund at \$8,250. CP seconded. Motion passed.

### **MPIRG**

The organization has periodic board meetings that some students must attend, and also have retreats, summits, training, and lobby days that members are encouraged to attend. The org is planning on having an additional carry-forward of around \$1000 that they hadn't planned on because an event fell through.

The students do contribute to the cost of the annual fall retreat to cover food and such.

BG motioned to fund at \$11,200. CL seconded. Motion passed. MP abstained.

### **Big Friend/Little Friend**

The organization has been growing in the past few years, as well as a higher rate of attendance at group events than in the past. The group covers all the costs of the events, as well as the cost of any transit passes the group may utilize. The organization also needs to do yearly background checks, and that constitutes a large portion of their budget.

The group budgeted for 40 background checks when they currently have 27 big friends. They don't have many graduating seniors, they are expecting the freshman this year to stay, and they anticipate having more new people next year. They plan to use all the background checks.

The group anticipates a \$3000 carry-forward.

MP motioned to fund at \$4,994. BG seconded. Motion passed. MW abstained.

### **CAC General**

This branch of CAC uses its funds primarily for Welcome Weekend events. Attendance of these events predicts how likely a student is to stay at UMM, so these events are very important. They are also trying to work on advertising and increasing brand recognition.

The line item "New Marketing Campaign" is a banner that would be used for multiple events and for many years to come.

The line item "Major Event Fund" is an effort to save money over a few years to bring in larger events and speakers every few years. The org is willing to have it partially funded, but they would like it funded in full. \*Taylor pointedly looks at DS\*

BG motioned to fund at \$16,410. CP seconded. Motion passed.

### **CAC Convocations**

The org is asking for a similar budget, but slightly larger. They want to bring in bigger name speakers because they get higher attendance.

They have a \$2200 carry-forward because the group was able to bring the price down on a few events.

SA wondered if all the CAC branches could pool together to bring in a larger event in rotation every few years, and then in those years there would be fewer events of the same type as the larger event.

Simon said that the branches function rather differently and that different structure works well for the committees, but that's certainly an option.

SA motioned to fund at \$24,000. BG seconded.

BG motioned to suspend the meeting until tomorrow at 9 a.m. MP seconded. Motion passed. Bye y'all.

Sunday March 6, 2016

In Attendance: Dave Swenson (DS), Laddie Arnold (LA), Blake Gerold (BG), Clement Loo (CL), Autumn Mahoney (AM), Tom Ladner (TL), Melinda Wolney (MW), Sarah Ashkar (SA), Carleigh Swanson (CS), Christi Perkinson (CP), Marcy Prince (MP).

### **Intramurals and Recreation**

The budget is largely the same as previous years. It includes funds to promote events some vehicle costs, student wages for the Intramural interns/workers, and a bus to the twin cities to go to a professional sporting game, like the Vikings or the Twins. Students help pay for that bus, but it's not nearly enough to cover the high cost of the bus.

They have about 10 students working for them.

SA asked if there was a way to have the Tinman Triathlon make a profit, and they said that they have been making efforts to increase attendance, especially among students. The Tinman is the first triathlon in the season and is very dependent on weather, which might lower attendance.

MP motioned to fund at \$12,475. SA seconded. Motion passed.

### **University Register**

The biggest cost is printing (duh), especially since the plan is to switch back to a weekly paper next year. They also want to open a tech specialist position because of all the computers and tech involved in running the paper. They would also like to make the ad specialist

LA asked why they included tech costs in their AFRC request when Tech Fee was available to help that cost. The idea was that it was a more regular rotation and that AFRC would be more friendly to that regular cost than Tech Fee. LA informed them that in the past the UR would ask for new computers on rotation from Tech Fee with no problem.

DS pointed out that the current staff inherited more than \$2000 in deficit, and is on track to have that paid off this year.

The paper wants to go back to weekly printing because they can stay more up to date with events.

Committee members considered the idea of funding to cover issues for every other week plus a cushion, and then let the advertisements and other sources of revenue determine whether they could print weekly.

SA motioned to fund at \$18,179. CL seconded. Motion passed.

### **Performing Arts Committee**

In the past year they've increased attendance with the money that they were allocated last year, and they hope to keep the attendance high this coming year with a lower budget.

The group has an \$8000 carry-forward due to high ticket sales for Home Free this year. There are a lot of unforeseen problems that can happen the night of a show, so having a significant buffer to cover the costs of those problems is necessary.

SA asked if it was reasonable for Student Fees to pay for the banquet for season ticket holders if only 1/3 of season ticket holders are students. The revenue from ticket sales and the gift funds included in some of that revenue makes it difficult to distinguish the exact funds available for this event. The committee is also looking into alternative funds to subsidize costs.

SA motioned to fund at \$38,380. BG seconded. Motion passed.

### **Women of Color Association**

The group has an increase in requests because they're planning on having a lot more programming next year as a way of making the organization relevant again. They are having 3 major events next year, including a pageant and a dance. They are also planning on having fundraising in the form of tshirts and a breast cancer awareness bake sale. They are also planning on having smaller events like movie showings and attending conferences. They want to bring in a local speaker both to empower Minnesota women of color, and to cut costs.

The group would like to provide all of the cost of conference attendance, but the committee said that they would expect students to contribute some money toward the cost, like registration costs.

The tshirts are to give WOCA a face and is recognized on campus. SA redid the numbers for the cost of shirts so that they would be sold for \$10 instead of \$5 and the group agreed to the numbers.

SA motioned to fund \$5622. BG seconded. Motion passed.

### **Asian Student Association**

They are asking for a little more money this year because they want to have more events and to better serve the campus. They have had a number of successful events in the past like Taste of Asia and Cultural Hour and hope to have some speakers. They've had to cut some of their programming and smaller events in the last year due to lack of funds. The group wants to do more Cultural Hours not connected to ORL, but will still utilize some of ORL's resources to pay for established programming. SA mentioned that they can also use the International Programs Committee to help fund international movies and

BG motioned to fund at \$8000. MP seconded. CL abstained.

### **Entre Nous (French Club)**

The group is planning on doing mostly the same events as last year. They want to do an Olympics-themed event to get into the Olympic spirit for this year. They are also looking into some French DJs and musicians to have come play. They budgeted for an event this year that they ended up using for the Winnipeg trip. They still have events this semester to pay for, and some of the costs for Winnipeg still need to show up in their budget. They will still have a carry-forward of \$1400. \$1000 of that was put into their carry-forward line item.

SA pointed out that the cost of travelling to Winnipeg has gone up in recent years due to higher international travel costs.

SA motioned to fund at \$2900. BG seconded.

### **Mock Trial**

The group is requesting the same amount as last year even though the group has been growing in the past few years and have been using up a massive carry-forward from a few years ago. Going to tournaments is not only essential for the functioning of the group, but also a great recruitment tool. The community is strong, and many members stay at UMM to be in Mock Trial. The group is asking

AFRC for less to contribute to travel costs than they are able to for their classification.

MP motioned to fund at \$10,800. SA seconded. BG asked if we should reclassify the travel (currently 2<sup>nd</sup> priority). That can be looked at later. Motion passed. LA abstained.

### **Women's Rugby**

The team went to playoffs in the fall, which they didn't plan for and had to use extra funds for. Their request is smaller though because they don't have the same startup costs that they had a few years ago. They need first aid supplies and a new ball bag, and they would also like to have more resources to host a dinner for the teams they play. The social aspect is a very big part of rugby culture. They also want to host a tournament next year. They don't plan on having a large carry-forward if they have anything left over after their last few events this semester.

BG motioned to fund at \$11,343. MP seconded. Motion passed. CL abstained.

### **Men's Rugby**

The group is requesting a little more this year to help cover more travel costs, as well as to help pay for new jerseys that were purchased this last year.

DS pointed out that they have a line item in their budget for next year of \$1000 even though they already bought jerseys. That line item was removed.

The socials consist of meals at the Met. The team does not cover the cost of alcohol.

SA asked why their first aid kits and balls cost so much more than the Women's Rugby is. The Men's Team uses fewer balls so they get beat up faster and need to be replaced more often.

BG motioned to fund \$12,200. AM seconded.

no regerts

"Classic Tom." –Sarah and Laddie in unison.

It's that time of the weekend.

### **CAC Homecoming and Traditions**

The group did not do one of their events and are planning on using the money to expand events later this semester or in the fall of next year. Over 2/3 of the student body is influenced by the CAC HAT events.

"I think I speak for the entire committee when I say that there is no amount of money we wouldn't give you to bring more puppies." –LA

The shirts in the so named line item are given to Midnight Breakfast volunteers mostly.

BG motioned to fund at \$4150. MP seconded. Motion passed.

### **Circle of Nations Indigenous Association**

The organization kept everything mostly the same, but are looking into more co-sponsorships to help pay for things. They also added a tech crew line item for the Powwow, as well as a cultural outing for members of the organization. The group is estimating that they will have a \$2000 carry-forward into next year, but that may change depending on the total expenses for the Powwow in April.

The group had a large carry-forward last year due to a smaller Powwow.

LA also pointed out that the group has over \$4000 in revenue included in their budget, a very impressive number.

SA motioned to fund at \$19,255. MP seconded. Motion passed.

### **Cougar Cheer**

The group wants to do more with the cheer camps, and improve the camps they have already. The group is working with other organizations to improve them and bring in a higher revenue in the future. They have successful hot chocolate sales at football games and tshirt fundraisers. The members have been making their own alterations to skirts to avoid buying all new skirts that will only be used for a few months.

The camp was removed from the request because it was not guaranteed to be done.

BG motioned to fund at \$1236. CL seconded. Motion passed. CP abstained.

### **International Student Association**

The biggest event they have each year is the Spring Festival each spring. They have food at their meetings, and have prizes for the games they play at meetings.

The group has about \$8000 in their account. About \$4000 of it will be taken out for the Spring Festival. LA asked what they will be using it for, and they will use some of it for small programming this semester, but will have a more significant carry-forward than anticipated. The budget was adjusted accordingly.

SA asked what the food at meetings line item was about, since the AFRC does not fund groups to have food at every meeting. The group clarified that they were separate from board meetings and were for the wider campus to come and spend time with international students.

SA motioned to fund at \$775. MP seconded. Motion passed.

### **Office of Community Engagement**

The group is asking for the same amount as last year. They cut two student positions due to the minimum wage increase. The group cosponsors many of their events, including all of the Community Meals and the Soup and Substances.

SA asked about using AFRC funds instead of Federal Work Study programs to pay for student workers. Sometimes the work study status of student workers changes sometimes such that they aren't eligible for work study funds. They have tried in the past to get federal work study funds, but it has not been a reliable source of income. The same is the case with other grants they've applied for.

MP motioned to fund at \$27,500. SA seconded. Motion passed.

### **World Touch Cultural Heritage**

The group has cut the Café International program that kicks off the week and replaced it with an international pride show. They will need funds for acts from the twin cities as the resources they've tapped cannot cover all of it. The group also wants to be able to support any social justice movements that may grow spontaneously, as many students come to that office when such an event happens. The group has a large carry-forward from last year because some of the keynote speakers they'd schedules couldn't come.

BG pointed out that the group doesn't have much revenue. The Peace Run brings in some money, but none of the speakers or meals.

The tshirts will be sold for \$7.

SA said that maybe EDI should be doing at least the banquet. DS said that World Touch had agreed to take on some EDI events such as the banquet to "broaden the purpose of [the WTCHW] budget."

They don't want to charge for the banquet because students are invited to the event.

LA asked how many people usually go to the event to determine the cost per student. They invite a lot of people, but they also have more specialized food that ends up costing more.

The group wants to increase the visibility of the event by bringing in bigger speakers, which is part of the reason for the increase.

CL motioned to fund at \$29,025. MP seconded.



SA repeated that she thought some of the expenses in this budget should be coming out of an office budget.

The price of the keynote is the same as the keynote last year. There is still an increase of around \$6000 without clear source. Some of it is for the Variety show being added this year. We determined that the increase was coming from the cultural heritage months that they were pressured into doing. The existing motion failed to continue discussion.

Some of the group's budget has already gone to Cultural Hours, but the bulk of the budget will be spent at the end of the month.

CP asked if the group needed to increase the budget for the Heritage months to make them better. Do they work well as they are? The group is planning for future to provide better programming as it may come up.

The committee suggested to raise the price of the tshirts to \$10 seeing as each tshirt costs \$12 to make.

DS, who also sits on the WTCHW board, predicts a few thousand dollars of carry-forward.

There was some discussion about what EDI should be required to fund programming-wise. The group wants to help student groups with spontaneous events, but that may not be the group's purpose.

SA motioned to fund at \$24,000. MP seconded. Motion passed. CL abstained.

### **Voces Unidas**

The group is requesting a large increase this year. They want to do the same events as last year, as well as attend a leadership conference in Chicago.

BG asked about the large carryforward. The current president had to take on the leadership of the club unexpectedly without a lot of knowledge about the org's budget.

LA asked if they would be willing to sell the tshirts for \$10 instead of \$5 to help off-set the \$12 price of making the shirts.

The group is asking for help from Admissions to help pay for travel because VU will be helping promote UMM at the conference in Chicago, in effect doing Admission's job.

BG motioned to fund at \$4683. CL seconded. Motion passed.

### **ASG Classifications and Hearings**

#### **Geology Club**

The group is going to Arkansas for their annual spring break trip.

SA motioned to classify as C2. BG seconded. Motion passed.

A Coke Fund allocation was not included in the original request and was added to reflect the allocation. The group is budgeting for more mileage because they have traditionally underbudgeted.

DS encouraged the group to submit a full budget to Coke and AFRC for transparency's sake. He also pointed out that students are paying the same amount but going to a closer and cheaper location. The sketchy secret bank account has also been dismantled, and the group is working much harder to manage their funds and maintain a good reputation.

SA motioned to fund at \$1204. BG seconded.

#### **Students Today, Leaders Forever**

The group is doing their annual spring break Pay It Forward tour.

BG motioned to classify as A2. MP seconded. Motion passed.

The group is going to DC for the tour this year. The group is asking for scholarships for students to be able to attend the tour. The students going on the trip are covering a large portion of the trip's cost already.

BG motioned to fund at \$4683. CL seconded.

### **Allocating ASG Funds**

\$25,000 was a little tight this year. DS recommends \$35,000, and LA agrees. TL wondered if increasing that much would lower our funds for annually funded groups. It would, but it would also allow for groups to come to AFRC for assistance if they were unable to make funds work through other means.

BG motioned to fund at \$33,000. MP seconded. CP would like to fund at \$35,000. The motion failed. CP motioned to fund at \$35,000. SA seconded. Motion passed.

We still have over \$20,000 to cut. Let's do this.

### **Amendments**

#### **CAC General**

BG motioned to amend the CAC General to \$11,410. SA seconded. \$5000 was taken from the Major Event Fund, which was an area that the group suggested that they could take a hit if needed. Motion passed.

#### **CAC Concerts**

MP moved to fund CAC Concerts at \$13,840. SA seconded. Motion passed. The group indicated that they had a carry forward that they didn't have specific plans for.

#### **University Register**

The computers were cut from the budget since they can get Tech Fee funds to fund computers. CL agrees with everything.

BG motioned to fund at \$15,731. MP seconded. Motion passed.

#### **Morris Campus Student Association**

LA believes the food costs are high, and recommends slimming down that portion of the budget. SA motioned to fund at \$6000. CL seconded. Motion passed. LA abstained.

#### **KUMM**

TL said that their carry-forward may be larger than they indicated.

#### **Intramurals and Recreation**

There was some discussion about encouraging a registration fee for intramurals, or at least raising the forfeit fee.

DS mentioned that intramurals participation is down this year, partially because the athletics coaches are discouraging students from participating in intramurals while they're in season.

SA said that the Tinman should be expected to break even. They do do the event at a troublesome time of year however.

#### **ACS Chemistry Club**

MP motioned to reopen Chem Club. SA seconded. Motion passed. BG abstained.

CP motioned to amend their allocation to \$4000. AM seconded. This is reducing the amount for travel within the guidelines based on the committee's guidelines. The committee agreed that they could cut the costs further, as it's such a big increase.

MP motioned to amend the allocation to \$3700. SA seconded. Motion passed. BG abstained.

### **World Touch Cultural Heritage Week**

CL motioned to reopen WTCHW. MP seconded. Motion passed.

SA enforced the belief that these kinds of cultural events should be supported at the administrative level. There was some discussion about what not funding the Cultural Months would say to student organizations. The AFRC wants to support these events, but believes they are essential enough to healthy campus life that they should be funded by the university, not student fees. The committee agreed to not cut the World Touch budget this year, but emphasized that pressure should be put on the administration to fund these events at least in part by the university.

### **ASG Funds**

BG motioned to reopen ASG. MP seconded. Motion passed.

BG said that \$30,000 would be reasonable, and even a \$5000 increase from last year would be comfortable.

MP motioned to fund ASG at \$30,000. BG seconded.

### **Big Friend Little Friend**

SA motioned to reopen BFLF. MP seconded. Motion passed.

SA suggested budgeting for only 32 background checks would be reasonable. Other offices and places on campus require background checks as well, so there may be some overlap.

BG motioned to fund at \$4786. MP seconded. Motion passed. MW abstained.

### **Performing Arts Committee**

BG motioned to fund PAC at \$37380. MP seconded. Motion failed. The likelihood of the most expensive group in the budget coming to UMM is slim, and PAC will need to find a different group.

BG motioned to fund at \$37,000. MP seconded. Motion passed.

CL suggested rounding all the awkward amounts down to the nearest 50 if the budget is over \$5000. We'll see how this goes and see if actually resolves the budget.

We're still in the red just under \$1000 after these changes.

A further \$50 was cut from the budgets we didn't touch before that were over \$5000.

SA motioned to make the aforementioned changes. CP seconded. Motion passed. CL, TL, MW, CS, LA, MP abstained.

### **Men's Rugby**

BG motioned to reopen Men's Rugby. MW seconded. Motion passed.

CL said that they were spending a lot on balls, especially game balls. Same with the first aid kit.

"I think we should go after the balls." –BG

CL helped us cut the costs of these items to more reasonable prices.

There is more significant pressure on men's teams to provide food for the other team, so the meals at the Met will stay in the budget.

BG motioned to fund at \$12,000. CP seconded. Motion passed.

### **ACS Chemistry Club**

BG said that he'd be willing to let the committee take some funds from Chem Club to encourage better fundraising and budgeting in the future.

MP motioned to fund Chem Club at \$3600. SA seconded. Motion passed. BG abstained.

### **Student Activities**

DS took \$50 from the Student Activities budget.

**Mock Trial**

LA said that Mock Trial could be cut a little.

MP motioned to fund Mock Trial at \$10,500. CP seconded. Motion passed. LA abstained.

The committee has \$247 of buffer for next year.

The subcommittee will be headed by BG and LA to find new members for next year. They will be making an effort to have more diverse committee members next year.

The next ASG hearing will be on March 29. In April we will have a meeting to elect new leadership.

MP motioned to adjourn. CL seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Meara Hove.