

Lansing Makers Network

Board of Directors

Regular Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2024, 7:00 pm at 2730 Alpha Access

Present: Brian Adams, Charlie Finkel, Joe Zimmerman, Carl Raymond, Lex Savoyat

Spectators: Tom Herdt, John Cardinal, Jerry Fahner, Heather, Evelyn, Maria, Lou

Minutes: Carl Raymond

Meeting called to order: 7:04pm

1. Agenda

- **Approving Agenda** Motion: Lex
- **Treasurer's Report**
 - Utilities low; expenses overall low compared to previous. No supplies, insurance
 - IBEW paid \$4,500 for 3 months
 - Drum sander sold for \$1,650. A cheaper type may be purchased at a later date
 - Charlie: MOTION to use the sander money for general fund. Yes: Brian, Carl, Joe, Lex. Abstain: Charlie. No: none
 - \$4,000 loan from Jack Olsen outstanding; Brian: MOTION to accept a no-interest loan from Charlie to cover it. Payments: \$500/mo. Starting November until paid off. YES: Brian, Carl, Joe, Lex. NO: none. Abstain: Charlie
 - Discussion: Other tools to sell? Ongoing discussion. Charlie: tool prices are down because of Facebook Marketplace and Craigslist. Lex: Ask area managers to identify salable items
- **501c3 discussion**
 - Explanation of how we lost the nonprofit status. The accountant for 2021 and 2022 completed the forms but did not file them. For 2023, we filed for a 6-month extension. As of May 15, we reached 3 years without a submission and LMN was placed on the revocation list automatically. The remedy is to re-file the Form 1023 to apply for nonprofit status, including 5 years of financial data.
 - Carl and Maria made progress on the forms.
 - Maria discovered that the numbers that were in the books for '21 and '22 were incorrect and has been working on correcting it.
 - Needed: 1023 form section which requires a list of donors that donated over 1% for each year
 - Then we send it in to the IRS, it can take 2-6 months to get reinstated. If we have a grant on the table, we can submit an extra letter to the IRS to ask for expedited processing.
 - We have 15 months from May 2024 to rectify it.

- Until it is corrected, we are unable to solicit money as a nonprofit.
 - It is unlikely that we will receive a donation from the Mott Foundation this year without the nonprofit status.
 - Maria: We need to consult an accountant in order to get all of the needed information. We haven't accounted for the donation that we received last year from Jack Olsen, which at over \$80k, might require a different filing requirement.
 - Brian is searching for an accountant. (Lex) no progress from social media post.
 - (Evelyn) Can we use the Mott donation as a reason to ask for expedited
 - (Evelyn) Tasma Swanson has a contact at the IRS that is willing to help. Will forward the email to the board.
 - (Evelyn and Maria) We need to inform volunteers, membership and update the website. What is the protocol for informing everyone?
 - (Lex) We should post on the talksite. Brian should be the one to post. Lex can take down the mentions on the website.
 - (Charlie) would like to see an email to the membership. Evelyn has something drafted, will send it to Brian.
- **Fiscal Cliff**
 - Lex: IBEW has paid 3 months; classes are published but need promotion; need to reduce rent. How-to-Holiday planning underway, planned for Nov. 16. Can have a table at Krampusfest? Can we sublet some space?
 - Brian: Once IBEW leaves, we can reconfigure that area for maker tenants
 - Evelyn: Astronomy on Tap event expected in March 19. Will approach Biology on Tap for a similar event.
- **Secretary's Report**
 - How-to-Holiday underway Nov. 16. Will need Facebook, etc. promotion.
 - 517 Community Living group event: pumpkin launch on Friday.
 - How-to-Halloween on Saturday
 - November 9: Michigan Disability Rights Coalition Hackathon;
 - November 10: Silversmiths group
 - April 2025: Maker Showcase at MSU Science Festival
 - Inviting 3 potential board members for discussion
- **President's Report**
 - Progress on Maker Storefront, with items for sale to members
 - Preparing a new "one-stop" online tool to replace disparate services (Google Docs, Wiki, etc.). Will handle documents, tasks, bulk email, etc. Will onboard board members and "senior" volunteers with named roles;
 - Need more classes on schedule. Heather: casting class coming
 - Need more promotion of existing classes
 - Expand membership: think about what makes someone want to be a maker. Charlie: How do we follow up after tours, classes, etc. with class suggestions, opinion form, etc. Brian: New system can be triggered to send after submitting a new email address.

- Need to approve money for promoting classes and events. Brian: MOTION \$50 once time for How-to-Holiday and \$25 per class (\$125): YES: Brian, Joe, Charlie, Lex, Carl. NO: none. Abstention: none.

7. Schedule the next board meeting

- **Next board meeting:** Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at 7:00 pm
- **Executive Session**
 - Skipped
- **Member Discourse**
 - Maria: What will the board be doing extra to bring in extra money, outside of extra classes, because it doesn't appear that we will be able to pay rent next month.
 - Carl: I think we should start thinking about a wind-down plan. I think we can make it to the end of the year. Do we potentially look for a smaller building that is less rent? Heather: What is the penalty for breaking the lease? Brian: We are just on the hook for the entire amount. Carl: Moving is costly. Heather: How much did it cost to move here? Carl: We had a fundraiser and raised \$100k to move into the building. CNC machine was \$4k to move into the building.
 - Lex: Many other makerspaces have a large ongoing sponsor, what is our history of trying to get something similar? Brian: We've talked to folks, but never gotten a bite before. Heather: Do we have a plan to ask for things like this? Lex: I'm working with a volunteer on that, but no we don't have anything like it.
 - Tom has noticed that the planer is starting to dull, we need new blades. They cost about \$300.