

Board Meeting Notes

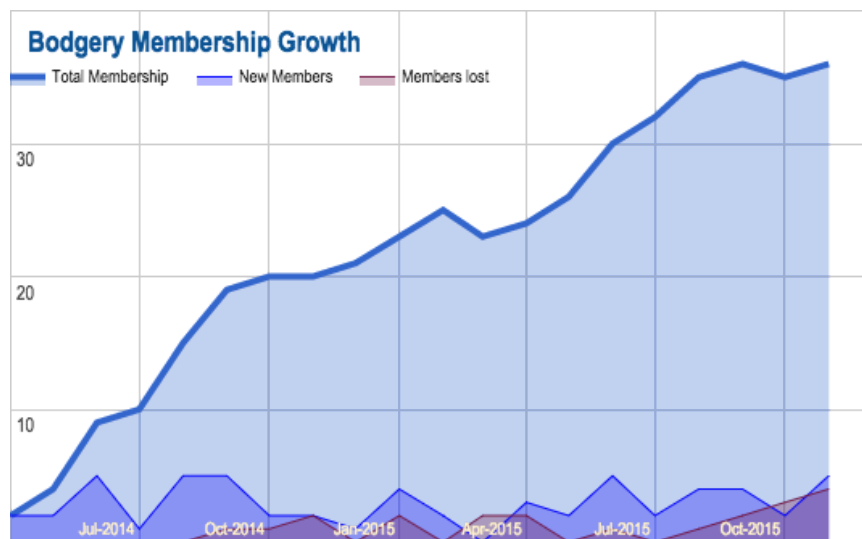
December 17, 2015

Attendance: Ken, Karen, James, Kate, John

Absent Board Members: Timm

Updates

- **Finances and membership (John)**
 - Current members: 36, including 2 desk rentals, and 2 scholarships.
 - Members gained: 5 - Ben (return), Michael, Vivienne, Kirk, Alex
 - Members lost: 3 - Glen, Becky, Kirk



---> All members are welcome to full details from the Treasurer's Report - join us for a monthly board meeting!

- On the advice of Andrea, JE applied for non-profit account at PayPal. This will reduce our fees from 2.9% (+ \$0.30 per transaction) to 2.2% (etc). It's a small difference--on a \$52 payment, we'd receive \$50.55, instead of \$50.19. It may qualify us for other benefits, not sure yet.

New Business

- **Fundraising/Outreach (John)**
 - Brainstorm to list businesses we should approach

- QVE in Sun Prairie (Ken's employer)
 - Home Depot/Menards/Grainger/Wood Crafter
 - Sewing shops/JoAnne/Michael's/Hancock Fabric/Craft Market/Gay Feather/
 - RC Performance/ReStore/
 - AmFam/Matel/UW Health/
 - Ask them for tips/advice/referrals to people they know
 - Sponsor's Board in the shop, and sponsor mention on the website (logos)
 - Create a form letter notifying businesses that we're a nonprofit, and they can be part of "building Madison (maker) community"
 - What about offering a corporate/business discount to their employees? Say 10% off for a business that advertises it.
 - We end up on their "Employee Discount Board" as an option
 - If they don't have this kind of program, we don't offer it
 - **Approved by the board**
 - Brainstorm grants available
 - Tony forwarded a link to the WalMart Community Fund
 - *None others suggested...*
 - Anyone want to grant-write?
 - Communications Intern? Trade for membership
 - We should create a Receipt Book for donations, with our logo/name, etc.
- **Spending on Tools**
 - We've spent money on a few things (security cameras, kitchen sink upgrade, etc), and have a wishlist. Milwaukee MS recently posted a used TIG welder for sale. Might be a good time to brainstorm a draft schedule for when we start buying tools (if a deal emerges - maybe set a cost range for each one?), and which ones are ok'd.
 - Angle iron for metal lathe bench (\$50), TIG welder (\$400)?
 - Board had wide-ranging discussion, with conflicting opinions.
 - It was agreed that the focus of savings should go to the "Contingency Fund" (\$10k) until that amount is met. At that point, the board (and community) should consider savings funds, like space expansion fund, tool expansion fund, etc.
 - Approved to move \$6,000 to that fund immediately.
 - Ken feels strongly that we should come up with a budget for a monthly amount to be added to the Contingency Fund, as well as Tool Improvement/Expansion Fund, Space Expansion fund, etc.
- **Vacant Board Position**
 - We need to find someone willing to serve out Bill's term.

- Karen is pursuing a lead, looks promising. Other names were suggested as backups.

- **Security camera system**
 - 3 TB drive installed
 - Review process with board on using it

- **Badger Loop Team proposal**
 - UW Team would like to occupy 15' x 8' of our shop. Thoughts?
 - We'll meet with them Friday, show them the available space, ply them with questions about the project. Details will be shared with the board, who will draft up a proposed contract, and run it by the members to get their input.

- **Add a Set Your Own Amount Donation button to the payments page.**
 - There is one currently, but a single donation isn't working (code glitch). John will reach out to programmers to get advice on fixing it.

Upcoming Events

- None

Meeting Minutes

7:10 pm - Begin. Finances update.

9:10 pm - Adjourned