

MHTG Business Meeting Minutes
3 September 2014
Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center

1) Call to Order

20:31 President Mark Schnepfer

2) Approval of last meeting's minutes

Minutes APPROVED

3) Officer Reports

PRESIDENT – Mark Schnepfer – The Great Taste beer fest went very well. Everyone did a great job and had a good time. Homebrews present at this meeting were announced. Thank you for sharing your tasty brews!

VICE-PRESIDENT – Mark Alfred – We have 383 members as of today. A couple of members that are new to meetings introduced themselves. Welcome to the meeting!

TREASURER – Jim Mayhew – Busy month after the GT. Spent 104K so far. Brewer payments still will go out. Other items are coming through. 250K plus 90K cds.

SECRETARY – Cheri Carr – no report

GT CHAIR – Mark Garthwaite – Successful fest! Will talk about it later.

4) Committee Reports – *Board Liaison - Chair*

CIDERS and MEADS – Cheri Carr – Les Hoffman – Cider pressing/campout will be the last full weekend in Sept. Invitations went out today, including a survey for apple orders. The event is at a beautiful farm in Dousman, complete with camping, lots of trails, big bonfire and cider pressing on Saturday. We have a big potluck Sat eve. The farm is a bit (about 45 min) of a drive, but there is no other property like this, set up with such beautiful metal work, hiking trails, a couple ponds, converted barns for shelters with beautiful outdoor art, it is really a treat.

CLUB SPACE – Steve Andrusz – Mark Alfred – Planning to have a call to everyone to help reorganize now that GT is over. Cider pressing folks will be in and out of there moving pressing equipment this month.

COMPETITION – Mark Schnepfer – Peter Steinberg – This year's Badger Brew-off has been booked for the second Saturday in Nov. Stan Heironymous will be the guest speaker after the judging. We are looking for people to help with the Badger Brew-off, mostly by helping transfer beer entries from pick up spots out of town. The club can cover the gas mileage. This will be about a week before the competition, by the Saturday before the event and we will also need to have people sort entries.

EDUCATION – Brian Phillips – Tony Jaques – Met tonight. Have things on the calendar already, moved some dates around so check the calendar. Dec will be American sour presentation compete with commercial and homebrew examples. Jan will be the trivia night with a can vs bottle blind tasting. Feb will be a system run down at the Clubspace so that folks can see how to use it by running water through it. March may be a talk about travel and beers abroad. Other things in the works. There were some emails that went around today about BJCP. If you are interested, email Tony Jaques about taking the on line prep piece.

FINANCE – Jim Mayhew – Jim Mayhew – Met tonight reviewed the budget to actual Sent out requests for the Moving forward with the financial review process.

GIVING – Brad Zulick – Carl DuRocher – Met last week. Recently presented six proposals to the board and they approved five. Donations that were approved were \$3,000 to Wil-mar Center, \$1,000 to Orton Park for a sponsorship which will be accompanied by a letter encouraging the fest to focus on craft beer. Board upped the \$7,750 proposal to WORT to \$8,000 continuing support to WORT. \$500 to Evansville Community Gardens, \$300 to support a rider in Wisconsin AIDS Network Act 12 . Pending for review are WYOU and WI Renew.

MEMBERSHIP – Mark Alfred – Greg Younkin – One month from today, we will open nominations for next years board of directors. Everyone is up for election except for one of the two-year at-large terms. One of the at-large terms that is not up this year will be elected because it will be vacated by Brad since he is moving. He will end is board duties Jan 1. If you would like to be a part of the membership committee see Greg Younkin. President says the website will be able to have on-line elections, but we need to use an outside software source. We will have a budget for this, and will save in the postage costs. We would like to eliminate the snail mail election process. On-line renewal is up and running. We need to determine that every club member has an email.
Beer number contest: The actual count for the beer served at the GT was 1,292. The winners were announced; also Greg sent an email with the totals and winners.

WEB – Mark Schnepfer – Mark Schepper – Looking at all the word press stuff. Looking at reservation systems and other ways we can automate some of the things we currently track by hand. Looking at plug-ins to handle different tasks.

5) Standing Reports

HOPS: Bob Drousth will place the order if you want something.

hops@mhtg.org

OKTOBERFEST: Oct 5th Sunday 12-6. Same meats as last year and Peter S. will bring the grill. Some people are providing Nescos, we may need some roasters, and Brian P will contact you if you have offered and we need it. We would like to have a veggie option, so if someone wants to do it, talk to Brian. Shelby K volunteered. Thank you! Oktoberfest beers and a non-Oktoberfest as well. If you are bringing homebrew and need tapping equipment set up, see Steve Kreiger. We can use help setting up and cleaning up. We will have live music this year, the Urban Hurdles who play at the GT a lot. German style music, the first half or more of the event.

See Brian P. for any other info.

GRAIN: Mike Sproul has grain coming and lots of base malt.

Grain@mhtg.org and we will send a list when the grain gets here.

CLUB TRIP meeting Tues 9th at 7 at Malthouse. Cleveland, Cincinnati maybe, southern Michigan and Indiana.

HOLIDAY PARTY: We will have the holiday party on Jan 10th at Capital Brewery. It includes lots of good beer and cheese, and is also a potluck. It is a fun event! We will be putting out a notice asking for folks to help set up and clean up. Having it after the holidays was a popular last year and we would like to continue this (the first weekend falls to close to New Years over the next few years).

6) Beer Break

7) Special Orders - GT Briefing

Mark Garthwaite:

Haven't heard anything bad about the GT from the powers that be in the city. One thing, Bucky's was taking down tents on Monday after we had completed the clean up, and there were cigarettes and zip ties. Garthwaite took care of that and did a walk through the park. They liked the post event traffic flow, said it worked well. One detox run was all. One ambulance situation where a person was revived with water. Mark G. felt things were very smooth this year. Had to reimburse a few things but not significant. Bucky's was missing two tables and eight chairs. Seemed like there was a dramatic decrease in half barrels and were using sixth barrels for their quantities for ease of use.

Mark would like to hear what we thought:

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS:

Friday load in crew seemed to be short staffed in the morning, vols show up at noon, but brewers show up earlier than that.

At the top of the hill on Friday, we need someone to be present up there to help act as concierge, so that info can be disseminated that day. Parking passes were not available yet at the bottom of the hill according to the brewers, we need someone at the bottom of the hill Friday, to keep things organized. Nick B and Mark G are talking about this. The brewers need to know the order of dropping stuff off on Friday to make this more efficient.

The refrigerated truck should have two doors, but that may not be possible.

Sat morning was the fastest unloading yet. If a brewer is missing a keg, it is possibly it is right near them, look around if you are hearing this, and help them find it. Most of the vols deliver the kegs close.

One golf cart got banged up and we had to pay to repair it. A lot of brewers want their firkins at their booths. Some go both places, and we tried to label it or have a list. Default was to take it to the RAT, and if it was missing it would be there.

On Saturday there were people coming up the hill on bikes and walking into the event halfway through it. It will be dealt with. Sometimes the police that were actually working did not seem to have gotten the information pertinent to the event. We could have a booklet for the police to see exactly what will be happening.

Do we contact all the taxis and tell them about the event? Some were missed, like Mad City Hopper. Others didn't seem to know which way to go around the loop etc.

Sat volunteers early am need to have a place for the early vols to put their stuff and bikes etc maybe.

Courtesy gate worked well. Check-in went well. The laid out maps of the check-in sites was very helpful. The one issue that was confusing was running out of glasses and it was resolved, but info was not out that it was resolved, and also the brewer's extra people, we need to tighten up these people, since the event is so much larger now. Can early vols get their glass at the same time?

There was some rationing of programs that was maybe not necessary.

Was there a drone? Hmmm. A sound guy had some pics. Share please?

The brewers were free lancing some entertainment/speakers very loudly. Ted the entertainment booking person hopes we can put a lid on this in the future by notifying the brewers.

Getting into the brewer dinner Saturday was confusing. It is hard to know who is allowed in to the dinner. Patrons and extra brewer folks were trying to get in and this puts vols in a bad position of policing. The clean up vols need to be able to get in.

Will the shared tables continue? This will be talked about later.

The exit down the hill was not well known, now that this lower tent is down there.

Clean up on Sunday was two hours faster than in the past. Lots more people are showing up.

CHAIRMAN MARK G SAYS:

Feedback was loud and clear that we are asking what the GT has become and where are going? Are we getting away from our roots and what we are which was craft breweries?

It kept coming up that Goose Island took up so much real estate, and is that fair to the other breweries?

Is Mark Garthwaite's roll with the WI Brewers Guild a conflict or is the club ok with this? If anyone has concerns about this please come to Mark. He wants to know.

Mark got some feed back that lots of people are pushed quite hard (work wise) with the event because it is so big now. We want to be sure that we are not pushing individuals too hard, we don't want it to be that way. We did have a GT committee for a short time, but maybe that would be a better approach. We were pushed to the brink this year. We need to look at how we organize this event.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS:

This event has been run by a tight collection of czars in a living room, and it was easy then, do we need an executive committee to run the GT? If so, how? Also the craft beer business was nothing then like it is now. How can we accommodate the very large businesses as we move forward? Ted G had the suggestion of putting the major brewers down on the soccer field together, and leave the little guys up on top by themselves.

Sometimes there will be a brewery – big or small – that has huge lines and it clogs out brewers next to them.

Is there a way to more randomly or equitably get the corner booths and prime space? The preferred spots could go to other brewers maybe now and then?

Evaluating what we want to be, if we want to be a "craft beer festival", Can we give everyone a five by eight booth and treat everyone the same? What do we want to be? If we can decide that, we can help sort what we want to do. The brewers are the clients, and we want to do right by them. The brewers feel that this is different than any other festival. We make it good for the brewers, and in turn it is good for the patrons.

We have to be careful not to take for granted the first Sunday in May so that they can come to the GT. They are the reason that we can have the benefits to the club. We need to remember this when we are letting all of these extra people into the park ahead of these loyal patrons. Mark G. said is constantly being asked by the city, Why are there so many people in the park before 1 am? It is getting uncomfortable and they continue to ask, and they may do something to stop it in the future and we need to rein it in. We can't forget about the paying customers, they are the reason this event even happens.

The most important this may be the club. We need the event to be favorable for the club. As a club, we need a mission statement and goals, and this will help us guide our movement. The Goose Island thing (not to beat it to death) was kind of a circus. It might be good to evaluate what our goals and

objectives are so that the club can have a democratic transparency that we can all get behind.

We should also maybe have term limits regarding what jobs we do, it sometimes seems like if you are put in a position you have it for life, whether you are good or not. Certainly there are people that should be doing things for several years, but others may be better to be moved around. Meg M. has been working on a documented binder of GT jobs, and has gotten very little cooperation from the members that are organizers. If you want to hand over a job, DOCUMENT IT! We need to work with Meg to get this bible complete so others can take these jobs. There is an argument for term limits, as well as against. We almost need a mentoring system in the club.

A committee may be a good thing. Mostly to determine strategy, direction, etc, not necessarily to do the day to day operations of the GT, but we do need some direction for it, this organization is a 400K company so to speak, at this point.

By the by-laws, the GT Chairman is a person that was a president or past president, but that was when it was a group of 40 or 50. We may be restricting opportunity for the good members with this.

We seem to have a good strong consensus that we want to set a direction for the GT, but do we want to use the next meeting to do some of this?

MOTION BY NICK BALAZS THAT WE FORM AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE A DIRECTION, MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS FOR THE GT FUTURE. SECOND by CAROL BRACEWELL.

Mark S came to the floor and said that he has felt we do need to figure out what direction we want to go. We can't grow due to a cap on the ticket numbers of the city, so we need to take a hard look rather than get dragged along with the growth of the event. FRIENDLY AMENDMENT BY KATE STALKER THAT WE HAVE HALF LONG TERM MEMBERS AND HALF NEW MEMBERS (fifteen years). SECOND the AMENDMENT. AMENDMENT CARRIES.

Discussion: if this goes forward, we should have a report date so that we can have it in place. Could we set up the next meeting like a city council meeting and let those that want to speak? As much as democracy is good, sometimes we need to make a decision among those that are the most involved. But, on the flip side, bigger picture things are the focus, rather than the operational issues. Some stated that they want to create a mission statement but maybe in a different way, not necessarily with this idea.. MOTION FAILS 9 to 10.

MOTION BY DAN BUSH TO ADJOURN THIS MEETING AND HAVE THIS AS A SPECIAL ORDER NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIES. MEETING ADJOURNED

8) New Business (none) ADJOURNED

9) Unfinished Business (none) ADJOURNED

10) Adjournment ADJOURNED VIA MOTION BY DAN BUSH UNDER 'SPECIAL ORDERS'

Respectfully Submitted 9-10-14 by Cheri Carr

Members, remember this is your club! Take an active and constructive role in your club by regularly attending your board and business meetings, and participating in committees.

CALENDAR

9/10	Goose Island tap takeover for MHTG Dexter's Pub 5-6 pm
9/17	<i>Malthouse Second Wed Social THIRD Wed this month</i>
9/24	Yahara Bay Distillery, Social 7 pm, tours 7:30, Board 6:30.
9/27-28	STONE FENCES CAMPING TRIP/CIDER PRESSING
10/5	OKTOBERFEST Garner Park
10/8	Steve Piatz Mead Education at Wil-Mar (switching with Malthouse)
10/15	<i>Malthouse Second Wed is THIRD Wed this month</i>
10/22	Bus Tour to Port Huron Brewery (Time to be announced)
10/29	Side Door Tap, Social 8 pm. Board: Big Ten 7 pm.
11/5	Business Meeting Wil-Mar 8:30
11/8	BADGER BREW-OFF and Stan Hieronymous presentation
11/12	Malthouse Second Wed Social 7 pm
11/19	Old Fashioned, Social 8 pm, Board Meeting 7 pm (a week early)
11/26	Alchemy Café, Social 8 pm