

**TIBETAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF ARKANSAS
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 14, 2011**

Board Members Present:

James Ownbey, President
Sidney Burris, Vice President
Karen Chotkowski, Co-Treasurer
Jasmine Merced, Secretary
Geshe Thupten Dorjee, Member at Large
Bill Symes, Member at Large

Board Members Absent:

Pam Dramis, Treasurer

Committee Chairs Present:

Christy Pollock, Community Outreach
Georgia Lance, Land

Guests Present:

Nancy Praus
Pete Peterson
Dennis Hargiss
Ann Wenzel
Cara Burrow
Jeremiah Wax
Susan Drouilhet
Donovan Netherland
Elena Garcia
Scott

Committee Chairs Absent:

Cheryl Maese, Membership
Kate MacNaughton Lonberger,
Fundraising
Students for a Free Tibet Liaison

6:33 pm Meeting called to order.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes. James moved to approve December 2010 and February 2011 minutes. Sidney seconded. Motion carried

Financial Reports. We deposited all \$29k of tickets receipts into TCIA account for tickets. It has come to light that TCIA does not have tax exemption for ticket purchases/sales, so Bill wrote personal \$2900 check to cover sales tax, which needs to be reimbursed to him. Karen will collect tax from those who purchased tickets prior to providing tickets. TCIA received \$1300 in donations through ticket sales.

Committee Reports

Community Outreach, report by Christy Pollock. Nothing to report.

Membership. No report.

Land. We now have everything needed to transfer title to TCIA via warranty deed. The Board would like to formally thank Pete for his assistance. There will be approximately \$150-200 for deed and extra charges. All land work is postponed until after HHDL's visit.

Student Liaison Committee for Students for a Free Tibet. No report.

Fundraising. No report.

HHDL at the UofA.

- Fundraising dinner night of May 11. Members to do potluck. Proceeds for Tutors for Tibetan children.
- Approximately \$1500-2400 will be needed to sponsor Tibetan children to cover expenses to room and board. –These children are Tibetan dancers, and there will be 15-16, including their teacher.
- Butter sculpture. Tentative – if there's \$ for it. Need transportation and board.
- The Fayetteville mayor is considering a "Tibetan Week".
- We will have a booth at the Farmer's Market on Saturday, May 7. Volunteers are needed for our dharma store.
- Committees need be formed to assist with final preparatory efforts for HHDL's visit.
- The Agri Park not available on Saturday or Sunday for our welcome party for Tibetan vendors. James is in charge about checking out Wilson Park.

TCIA Bylaws.

- Tabled until after HHDL's visit

NEW BUSINESS

- Students for a Free Tibet is planning another Heifer International Fundraiser at George's in late April (Sunday or Monday), which will benefit Tutors for Tibetans.
- Interfaith Harmony Day was rescheduled to April 9, 2:00-5:30pm. Geshe-la is opening the event with chanting and will be on adult panel.
- Partnerships for Pennies is a service set up by Leann Halsey, which delivers food directly to people who are starving in India (partnershipsforpennies.com). Leann has 3 people working with her, but does not have nonprofit status. Bill proposed a motion to discuss the possibility to include Leann's project as an extension of TCIA. Unanimous assent by all Board members present.
- A t-shirt design has been created and our t-shirts were sent out for bids.

Meeting adjourned 7:45p