

Twin Cities Maker Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 14, 2012 at Hack Factory, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Attendees

Attendees: Becca, Riley, Karin, Scott, Brandon, Bob, Dave available

Scribe

Bob Poate

Agenda

Old Business

- Reading of previous months' minutes
- 501©3 update
- Security Cameras
- Fire Extinguishers
- Server room, system logins and passwords
- New/additional space search
- NAMAC update
- Official press packet update, communications policy, survey

New Business

- Minne Maker Faire 2013
- Chicago Maker Faire report
- Halloween - TCM (Twin Cities Monsters) Halloween - Halloween is on Open House Night

Old Business

- David teaching welding class, but available if necessary. Becca ran meeting.
- Minutes read and carried.
- 501(c)3 - passed. Congratulations to us! Good job to everyone who helped make this possible. Michael talking to Springboard for things we need to know now that we are independent. Michael and Brandon working with GiveMN to get setup for TC Maker to directly accept donations. Now that we are officially Non-Profit, we can specifically

accept money and seek grants for specific projects. GiveMN charges 2% or 3% fee for donations, which is better than the 7% from Springboard. We can now do projects or general fundraising page; people and companies are more likely to donate to an organization that is officially Non-Profit. Now if people donate things to us, we have to give the tax free donation papers, which Springboard used to do. Michael can take care of that.

- Security cameras. Jude's been working, but needs a new box. Wires have been mostly run. Yell at Jude if it's not done next week.
- Fire extinguishers. Jude and Michael have not met, but looking at \$20 - \$30 per extinguisher to recharge, provided extinguisher is not hosed. Cost is \$75 - \$100, up to possibly \$200 if we need new extinguishers. All need to be inspected. Area managers should determine what types we need; Jude will confer with managers, especially Metal Shop. Jude will talk to Jeff on Wednesday to take care of this, as Jeff is also Safety Manager. Safety Manager should determine safety cycle for extinguishers. We have adequate funds to do pay for any necessary recharges. We *may* be able to get them done for free now that we're 501(c)3.
- System logins and passwords. Scott has a list of as many as he knows. Doesn't have admin access to Wordpress or message board; Brandon is resetting it right now.
- Metal Shop bandsaw, new and works well, plus George bought one and it also works well. We now have 2 1/2 working bandsaws.
- Industrial Sewing group from American Crafts Council checked out our space; we don't have enough space for their purposes.
- NAMAC, September 6 - 8. Riley met with Andrea (from National Media Arts and Culture) and got to see our room. TC Maker was originally scheduled for 4 workshops at NAMAC but we now have 6 people demonstrating things. We have been given 2,400 square feet of space in the Mirage Room at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, 1300 Nicollet Ave. Scott, Michael, Riley, Alex, Michael C. and John W. will be displaying and have full access to conference events. Becca will be at TCM info booth. Exhibitors are normally charged \$400 - \$1000 and tickets are normally \$300, but we are not being charged. Questions - T-shirts for all people presenting for TCM name recognition and marketing? If we have shirt sizes we can do a custom run; have info to Brandon in a week. Can we get nametags like those that Chris O. did for us board and staff? Will have to check with him when he is available. Can we get massive quantities of signage like what Chris has made, as well as 2 large vinyl banners (1 for hanging on front of table, 1 for larger display behind table)? Good investment idea for marketing. Call around for prices; check with Minuteman Press on Central, we've worked with before. Michael will be doing Locksport demo. Can we authorize funding to buy locks and picks for class and locksport night? Table to new business. Riley asked if it was okay with the Board if he let The Mill know about this event in case they want to rent space from NAMAC; as an employee of The Mill, he thought it was his responsibility, but as a TCM member and Board member, he didn't want to step on any toes, since we found out about this opportunity through our contacts. Board okayed; we want to help other maker spaces, too.

- New/additional shop space search. Karin suggested that we also have people on the committee outside of the board. Currently we are being charged ~\$3 per square foot. New space OR more space. Wednesday, find other people for the committee. This is a long term strategic goal that the Board should be guiding. Annex or larger location? Looking for 12,000 - 15,000 square feet with 3 phase power, and with free electricity or equivalent in lease cost. Warehouse space in Minneapolis is \$3 - \$5 per square foot.
- Press packet. Michael needs to know what we need for shareable online storage. Michael is working with Wayne to refresh PR stuff we already have. We now have a stock press release, and Michael is running it past a friend who does PR work. Online, editable template will be on wiki, protected. Michael and Scott will talk about it offline. Brandon has found an online survey that blows SurveyMonkey out of the water.

New Business

- Chicago Maker Faire report. Reportedly, Kick Butt and Superawesome. TC Maker got 1st and 2nd place in the Power Racer race, 4th place overall. Pumping Station One was great support, awesome, blown away, awesome space, awesome people. Faire itself was small and was in Evanston, not Chicago. Faire was outdoors and rained out a bit on the first day. Fire Marshall shut down Faire a bit for flash flood warning. Plenty of outside biffies and water stations.
- Riley - laser pointer. Has been researching prices on larger laser cutters. Decent prices online for full spectrum, 20" x 12", 40 watt for \$3195 on Kickstarter. A 60 watt, 24" x 18" laser cutter is available for \$6,500, 1/3 the cost of an Epilog. Riley hasn't looked for anything higher than 90 watt; Jude pointed out that laser sintering metal needs around 200 watt. Our new 501(c)3 status may make it easier for grants.
- Riley has been in contact with John Scherer, who has moved. John has moved to San Diego and is interested in starting a maker space (Scherer Space). Could be called Hack Factory San Diego. Brandon can squeeze more space into server if John needs computer space.
- Halloween. This year Halloween falls on Wednesday, an Open House night, so TCM should do something interesting: Jack O'Lantern making, give out candy, wear costumes, Scary Grilling, Scary Art Show, zombie target shooting with Nerf, airsoft or bows and arrows. Before Halloween, classes could be held: costuming, makeup, mask making, prop building, etc. Could also have a Movie Event - show classic or 1950's B movies, Twilight Zone, Night Gallery, MST3K, etc. Halloween committee: Becca, Michael, Riley, Karin, Scott, Bob, and get non board members. Halloween is soon, so we need to plan quickly. Offline meeting and come up for plans with and without budget.
- Minne Maker Faire 2013. Jude needs \$25,000, and the target is Minne Faire at State Fairgrounds at the Progress Center, parking lot and campground.
 - He has pricing and a map from the Fair. Parking lot and area just north of could be for Power Races. \$7,500 for facilities, \$10,000 for advertising. Two day fair, April 13 and 14, with a half day setup on the 12th. Planning on 15,000 guests per day and 150 booths. Security is sort of covered, we'd also be paying for a Fairground event manager. Radio spot is \$200/minute in Twin Cities, \$300 per column inch in the

Star Tribune, 1/4 page ad \$525. We'd have to supply \$3,000 of support for the Power Wheel Racers (tents, tires, etc.). Our only deadline for applying at the Fairgrounds is until space rents out. Security deposit is non-refundable. Tickets would be charged at Fairgrounds because it would seem weird (people don't appreciate something for nothing); Jude is planning on \$2 for adults, kids free, seniors half price. Exhibitors, set aside 20 - 30 slots for maker support industries - Youngloods Wood, Axman, Tandy Leather, etc. Suggest a donation of \$50 - \$100 per day for them. For Makers display cost... area gets gray fast. Sparkfun is on one level, a smaller company is at a medium level, and someone who is working on becoming a professional maker is on a different level, so determining cost/freeness of display table will be something to be worked on. Cutoff could be gross sales of, say, \$150,000. Sponsorship and grants. Search for sponsorship for community outreach: Handmade Music, Maker In The Park, Women's Night, etc. Company's more likely to contribute money to a community outreach program (investing in a community, which will grow), than throwing money at a one time, or yearly, event. Looking for 5 - 6 major contributors of around \$5,000 - \$6,000 apiece (Life Touch, Best Buy, Medtronic, etc.) If we do it here at the Hack Factory we can rent parking lot for Power Wheel Racers. We don't have space at the Hack Factory for more vendors than this year. Do we have \$2k for next year if we have to do it here? Yes. Jude wants to try to secure corporate sponsorship by October, if we have \$10,000 by then, then we can go ahead with Fairgrounds. Jude wants to contact MAKE before getting corporate sponsorship so we don't get into a conflict, and they are our major source of advertising. Voted to okay; unanimous. We need to *fully* support and not control this. Also need to get *full* support from our regular members. Feel out favors, call in favors. Jude and Michael need names of contacts for sponsorship.

- Michael - Locksport expenses? Would like to get \$50 - \$100 budget for picks and supplies for NAMAC, and for montly meeting, as well. Could charge \$10 per person at NAMAC, but Michael can't budget that himself and front the costs long enough in advance to buy supplies. Could schedule thru Eventbrite, but it takes awhile to order locks and picks. Suggested that Michael take a week to get donations, and if that's still lacking, shoot the board an email for funding.
- Karin may not be available for October meeting.
- Power Wheels Racer Team \$3000 budget. Try Kickstarter, GiveMN.
- Blue Bus. Possibility of Peter donating it to TCM. Do we want to take it? Yes.
- David wanted to encourage people that putting on classes is a good idea. It's part of why we exist (teach, share, learn), and is a good way to involve new people and potential members, as well as being a source of income. Reminder: classes can be taught by non-Board members and non-Staff members, too. Non-members can also teach classes as long as they sign the appropriate papers.

Next Meeting

- Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Next Meeting Agenda Items

- To be determined.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned.