

# Twin Cities Maker Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2011 at Hack Factory, Minneapolis, Minnesota

## Attendees

Attendees: Riley, Wayne, Dave, Brandon, Bob, Michael, (Karin called in with a sick child)

## Scribe

Bob Poate

## Agenda

- Old Business
  - Reading of the previous meeting minutes
  - Potential PR Minion response to blog and mass email - Riley
  - 501 (c) 3 update
  - School Factory and Springboard for the Arts
  - Potential TCM rebranding to Hack Factory
  - Shop signage
  - Budget Meeting results
  - Consumables policy
  - Updated Equipment Form
- New Business
  - Upcoming events
  - Meet with a rep. from The Mill re: relationship between the 2 spaces
  - Upcoming events - Karin
  - Discuss the merits of raising dues (to \$60 and \$30) to compensate for sales tax. Discussion of other revenue generating options.

## Old Business

- Read previous months' minutes
- Riley sent out PR notice to Board before today's meeting, but haven't posted yet. Michael suggested sending it to the MN Council Of Non-Profits. Discussed. May want to post it internally (forums) before sending out to other groups. Riley proposed an internal posting, 2 weeks out there before publicly posting by the end of the month.
- 501(c)3 update. David has been working on the form, which is now mostly filled out. Needs receipts attachment from Brandon, and other miscellaneous papers. Need to raise another \$400 to fund the application. David wants to have everything ready to go and send out by the end of the week, but the lawyers may not be available by then. Should go submitted before end of year.
- School Factory and Springboard - Karin not here, so table until next month. Both options will be moot once we become 501(c)3, but open lines of communication with Springboard for promotion will be good.
- Rebranding. Discussion for letter, tabled. David has been busy with the 501(c)3 process so hasn't had time to work on rebranding posting and discussion.
- Shop signage. Riley has talked with Chris O. Chris willing to take over the signage process, and continue the splendor that he has been doing with signage and other graphics around the organization, which pleased all.
- Budget meeting results. We had a good first crack at our budget. Eye opener, re: number of student members vs. full members for our funding. It is more obvious that we need more people. Michael believes we should focus on total members, not breaking it out between full and student. David would like to have another meeting in January or February, it can't really wait until the full member meeting in the summer.
- Consumables. Karin and John S. not here, tabled til next month.
- Updated equipment form. John S. not here, tabled.

## New Business

- Upcoming events. Steampunk Leather Workshop Dec 15 (was class moved? - draft mode hasn't been released as live event yet), regular events: Ehack Night, Women's Night, Locksport needs to be added to January calendar, (some events may need to be automatically regenerated in next years' calendar), Event Coordinator should arrange to have someone who can open door for all public events, Minne Maker Faire will be April 14. Jude will be sending out Christmas

Cards out next week for all exhibitors from last 2 years to invite them to come back next year, and will be sending cards to local businesses as well.

- Meeting with reps from The Mill - Brian and Michael. Two organizations involved with a diverse set of tools, knowledge and interests in making projects. We're both part of a larger system, the Twin Cities area. The interaction and activities between The Mill and Twin Cities Maker could be a model for how a 3rd or 4th organization in the areas could interact. The Mill will have some differences from TC Maker, but will also be complementary. Some of their equipment is open source, and some proprietary. Their website is [www.mnmill.org](http://www.mnmill.org). Prices are on the web, and are prepay. Some of the machines take a lot of training, so people who join for a short period may require additional unscheduled training, so the shorter term cost would be higher. Will have limited access hours initially, at least. There will be a movie at The Mill this Saturday night.
- Discuss the merits of raising dues to compensate sales tax which Twin Cities Maker has been absorbing, or discuss other money generating opportunities. We didn't know that we'd have to pay sales tax when we originally set fees, so we have been eating the sales tax. Currently, the sales tax processing fees cost TCM approximately 11%, broken down between full and student members. We can't adjust Paypal fees because Paypal will ditch us, similar to not being able to adjust credit card charges to pay for credit card fees. Discussion. Brandon would prefer that the member fees be at a standard dollar amount (whole dollars instead of a varying "X" % being added on) and adjust numbers internally. Various charges from the city, state and county will change periodically and make constantly changing fees a nuisance for members to follow. Proposed to raise fees \$5 for both Regular and Student memberships. Voted, all affirmed to be done by January dues. Riley will post.
  - We've been getting a good number of new members, regularly, but people have been disappearing after the first month or so. We need to work on retaining members. Discussed bringing back the idea prepaying membership for a discount. We had offered this in the past, but there was very little interest, so it had been dropped. That deal may have not been advertised very well. Proposed to bring back a discounted, prepaid membership program (with better advertising) to increase cash flow and member retention. Plan would be \$550 for a year, 12 months for the price of 10, plus 2 free classes (average \$30 - \$65); or \$275 for 6 months (1 month free) and no free classes.

## **Next Meeting**

- January 10

## **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

- To be determined.

## **Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned.