

OC/NIBS
Board of Directors' Meeting
BOCA Mideast Regional Office
Westerville, Ohio

MEETING MINUTES

August 8, 2001

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Bill Smith, Chairman
Dave Williams, Vice-Chairman
Bruce Larcomb, Secretary/Treasurer
Donn Ellerbrock
Larry Brown
Sara Ward
Paul Myers
Dave Ledvinka, Executive Director

ABSENT:

Dave Denison
Joe Schmitt
Bob Schmitt
Kerry Illes
Laik Ali
Jim Shoaff
Hank Sherowski

GUESTS:

Rick Schriewer, OBOA
George Haskins, ACCO

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2001. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to approve the treasurer's report compiled by Bruce Larcomb as submitted (copy attached). Ledvinka commented that he had contacted ASCINET regarding fees being charged for maintaining the OC/NIBS website and was able to renegotiate the costs down to \$25 per month which will also cover the e-mail service. This results in a reduction of over \$300 per year. Larcomb also mentioned that OC/NIBS has switched checking accounts from Bank One to Fifth-Third, which will provide checking services for no fee – another cost savings.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Smith commented that OC/NIBS should focus more on getting things done rather than get steeped in organizational process which consumes too much time and is not necessary for the limited size of our organization at present. When we grow larger, we can then readdress our organizational needs and make adjustments to serve an expanded membership. In the meantime, we should use our forum to drive our mission and gain greater visibility. He also emphasized that we should find new avenues to involve our membership in the ongoing advancement of OC/NIBS. Using the newsletter to solicit ideas for doing this from

the general membership would be a good starter to get their thinking into the mix. This idea will be incorporated in the next newsletter.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dave Ledvinka reviewed a number of current activities to update the Board.

NIBS CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL: The Consultative Council at NIBS has been reconstituted and will now reflect a more focused approach to carrying out its mission. An election process is now underway to reduce representation from three persons in the twelve membership sectors to one. Dave Williams is on the ballot as one of the candidates in the Labor category. Chairs of other main committees and councils within NIBS will be added. Dave Ledvinka will remain a member as representative of an affiliate council (OC/NIBS) which was approved as part of the reorganization.

ACE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM: Ledvinka reported on the ACE Program, which has been started by NIBS Board Member, Charlie Thornton. ACE continues to progress and is now being promoted nationwide. It is likely that NIBS will become the headquarters location for the national program and a search is underway to find a national executive director. Acting executive director, John Woodman, has been in touch with OC/NIBS and is soliciting their help to get a chapter going in Ohio. An Ohio meeting is being planned sometime in September and Ledvinka will serve as the point for OC/NIBS involvement.

OHIO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP (ORDP): Ledvinka is a member of the ORDP Steering Committee. At a recent meeting a new executive director (Gene Jackson) was seated to replace Randy Hunt who accepted a job with the U. S. Department of Agriculture to head up their Ohio office. Hunt will remain on the Steering Committee to represent his current department.

OC/NIBS WEBSITE REVIEW: Ledvinka reviewed the updating of the OC/NIBS website. Pam Towns, the NIBS Webmaster, is adding current information into the site. Recent additions are past newsletters, Board meeting minutes, meeting announcements, and a listing of the Board of Directors. A review has been made of associations currently listed and only those with current, updated sites remain. Pam is exploring the possibility of incorporating our site onto their in-house server but that is still being investigated. Other updates are planned but have not been completed as yet. This will remain a work in progress as new features are explored.

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM: Dave Williams gave an update of the apprenticeship program. Things have progressed, as a result of a meeting held at Hocking Technical College in May, toward formulation of a plan to develop the two-year curriculum. Focus groups were to have met during the month of July to compile broad input from mechanical trade representatives to allow representatives from Hocking Technical College to begin shaping the program. Logistics and heavy demands on personal time available have hampered the effort to get enough people to participate, thereby pushing the timetable back.

Enthusiasm remains high, however, and the timing has been adjusted to a more realistic expectation. Completion of the first curriculum is now projected for the 2002 academic year. Trades to be involved initially are sheet metal, electrical, and plumbing. Updates will be covered in the Forum as things progress.

NFPA: Bruce Larcomb updated the Board on actions of NFPA regarding a staffing level mandate which will likely cause concerns for the Ohio Municipal League (OML). To date, however, the OML has not reacted. Ideas were discussed for contacting the OML to create better awareness at their end. Bruce also discussed his concerns with a Mr. Haskins, Chamber of Commerce Board member from South Point, Ohio. Publication of this issue in the OML bulletin and other print vehicles will be explored. Ledvinka will follow-up with Larcomb to discuss options.

STEERING COMMITTEE CONCEPT

The major agenda item for the day was to explore a new structure for OC/NIBS, which would allow greater flexibility in running the organization. Ledvinka described the process used the Ohio Rural Development Partnership. It has become obvious that the present structure with a Board of Directors, formal election procedure, ten pages of by-laws, etc., has proven to be very cumbersome. ORDP employs a steering committee concept, which is covered by a simplified set of by-laws (2½ pages) and is very flexible. The discussion around the table supported the idea that the present OC/NIBS structure needs to be simplified. Ledvinka distributed a draft of new by-laws, which was then reviewed item-by-item. Suggestions were made to modify a number of sections leading to general agreement that the new process be adopted. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed that OC/NIBS adopt the new format. Since a quorum was not present, the new by-laws will be sent by mail to all Board members for ratification. Upon approval by the full Board, which is anticipated, the current officers will set a process in place for transferring the current Board membership into the Steering Committee concept. All this should be completed in time for the Board meeting in late November. That meeting will also be considered a full membership annual meeting. A copy of the draft proposal for new by-laws is attached for approval by the Board.

DAVE DENISON RECOGNITION

The final agenda item was to send a card to Dave Denison to wish him well. Sadly, Dave passed away the very next day. Ledvinka has written a tribute to Dave which will appear in the next issue of the FORUM.

ADJOURNMENT

On that note the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will take place on November 30, 2001. Details to follow.