

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA MENSA**  
**BOARD of DIRECTORS**  
**Regular Meeting – March 6, 2010**

<=====>

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by SAGRAY at 11:05 a.m. at Pilgrim Towers, 440 North Madison Avenue, Pasadena, with members LINDENBLATT, ROBINETT, TALKOV, TAYLOR, WALKER, YU and guests Sandra Smith and Jessica Plotner. ELLIOTT and FLEMING arrived during the meeting.

B. Approval of Agenda

It was requested to add Special Order item (SAGRAY): Appointment of Sandra Smith as Member-At-Large; New Business (D)(SAGRAY/YU): Timeline and Procedures to Ensure Appropriate Recognition of Members.

Motion (ELLIOTT/ROBINETT) to approve as indicated: passed 4-0-3.

C. Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion (ELLIOTT/ROBINETT) to approve January Minutes as submitted: passed 6-0-1.

Motion (ROBINETT/YU) to approve February Minutes as submitted: passed 5-1-1.

II. Reports

A. Executive Officers

Chair – Mensa Foundation awards are coming up, including Copper Black Award for an educator, and Intellectual Benefit Awards. Nominations are due April 15 and May 1. Deadline for membership renewals are coming up as well.

Treasurer – Directors and Officers (D & O) Insurance of \$636 was paid. Treasure stated that the “Coverage was changed in some way.”

## B. Area Reports

Mid-City – Third Thursday Thrills will be held one hour earlier starting May.

Coastal – Jessica Plotner is interested in becoming Coastal Delegate.

Hi-Desert – Cinco de Mayo event will be held on May 8. There will be a van from the Hi-Desert area to the Hollywood Bowl event, and Hi-Desert will have a CultureQuest team.

## C. Standing Committees

Awards – Preliminary report is not ready.

Elections – Elections report has been submitted; there are no contested seats.

Finance – We should allocate the money sitting in the bank to earn interest. CDs getting .7 to 1.5% are available, and 1 to 1.5% from online banks. SAGRAY requested that TAYLOR make some proposals, and that this be on the agenda for next month.

Gifted Youth – There will be an outing to the El Capitan theater for Alice in Wonderland on the day of the marathon.

RG – There were 130 or 125 paid registrations – the discrepancy is being looked into. Financially the RG lost 2-3000 dollars, but the hotel should be refunding \$1000. Final report will be coming in April. There were 45 walk-ins, some of which were not full registrations, and pre-registrations were underpriced. Entertainment was an issue. \$750 was budgeted for entertainment, but a mistake regarding insurance cost additional money, and some things were paid for that were not used by attendees.

Singles – Singles Coordinator position is vacant.

Scholarship – Kudos to the judges, who read 70-80 essays. Needed to forward at least three essays. At the Regional level there were 170 essays to read. Many volunteers stepped forward.

## E. Coordinators

Mensaphone – The question was posed whether we are staying with the same service provider. There were some complaints. SAGRAY requested a discussion item for the April agenda on this issue.

## F. Newsletter

Newsletter was late this month.

### III. Special Orders

#### A. Appointment of Sandra Smith as Member-at-Large

Sandra Smith stated that she has been a member for 10 years, is a Lifer, and will be happy to be voting.

Approved unanimously.

### IV. New Business

#### A. Discussion and Approval of Hotel Contract for 2011 RG

Contract is the same as the one for 2010. Base rent of \$5000 for facilities; with an additional 9.75%, and 20% added for gratuities and tax. It includes renting the entire second floor upstairs suite for alcohol. TAYLOR asked if there were any changes we wished to make from this year. SAGRAY said we need to collect more fees, but we were largely happy with the hotel, especially considering the challenge the hotel search has been in past years. ROBINETT said that the hotel was nice. SAGRAY said the hotel cannot be cheaper without being worse, the service was great, and we liked the rooms. ELLIOTT suggested changing the cancellation clause.

Motion (SAGRAY) to approve the submitted contract for 2011 RG with authority to change the cancellation clause therein as appropriate: passed 8-0-1.

#### B. More Effective Use of Announcement List Discussion

The matter was discussed; no action was taken.

#### C. GLAAM Storage Facility Discussion

GLAAM has a lot of stuff lying around everywhere. It was requested that proposals be presented in April and a discussion item be placed on the agenda.

#### D. Timeline and Procedures to Ensure Appropriate Recognition of Members Discussion

The deadline to submit newsletter for an award was missed this year because we were not aware of certain requirements for submission. February is a particularly insane month for GLAAM with the RG and other things going on. SAGRAY called for ideas on policies or procedures that can be implemented to ensure that these kinds of deadlines are not missed, or for a designated person to serve as the

Chair's backstop in case such things are missed.. It was noted that Yahoo Groups has a calendar tool which can be used to calendar these things for all years, but was not being used, and that there were positions on the Board whose specific role is to assist the Chair with these tasks. ELLIOTT volunteered to be a backstop for such things in the future.

## V. Closing

### A. Good of the Order

There was an out-of-state request from a member of the public asking for assistance putting him in touch with the movie industry. Upcoming deadlines include Mind Games registration on March 31, CultureQuest, Group of the Year stuff. Gatsby's party is being revived.

### B. Adjournment

Motion (ELLIOTT/TALKOV) to adjourn: passed 8-0-2.

Adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kai-An Yu  
Secretary