



The Dispute Resolution Board Foundation

Fostering common-sense dispute resolution worldwide

Minutes of the DRBF Board of Directors Meeting Thursday December 15, 2005 by Conference Call

The following BOD members participated in the Board of Directors meeting by conference call: Jack L. Feller (V), Harold V. McKittrick (V), William B. Baker (V), John C. Norton (V), Robert A. Rubin (V), John W. Nichols (V), James P. Donaldson (V), William W. Edgerton (V), and Jack J. Woolf. Larry Delmore, Ann McGough and Steve Fox participated by invitation.

The following members did not participate: Peter M. Douglass, Gordon L. Jaynes, Marianne Ramey, Gwyn Owen, Robert J. Smith, Romano Allione, Armando Araujo, Peter H.J. Chapman, Brison S. Shipley, and Daniel F. Meyer.

Note: (V) represents voting Board members.

Membership Grades

President Hal McKittrick reviewed the revised plan, which was distributed to all BOD members prior to the meeting. To summarize, the only change is moving corporate and institutional into one level, to be called “sponsor.” He also stated that he had revised the plan to state that the levels would be made public and explained in the bylaws, and also that a student level would be added. A motion was carried to accept proposal as written.

As an extension to the membership grades effort, there is a proposal to establish a new policy for posting CVs on the website. As presented previously, this would require those who post to have attended training, and provides a two year grace period. Therefore, the new policy wouldn't be effective until Oct. '06, after a vote of the membership. This provides ample time to attend a training session. It was proposed that there would also be a minimum requirement to the information required in the membership database, for example the number of DRBs served on, members you've served with, clients served, etc. A concern was raised about the ability to remember everyone you've served with, so it was agreed to change to require references. A motion was carried to make changes to the member resume database policy. Hal McKittrick will write up the complete policy for distribution to the BOD and will publish it in the Forum.

A follow-up question arose regarding the definition of a “student.” Initially the answer was “a person enrolled in a recognized institution of higher learning.” It was agreed that a definition can be developed at a later time.

NYC Conference

The planning committee for the next conference is looking at two scenarios for the event venue – in Manhattan proper, which is quite costly compared to other locations, or in Newark.

Jim Brady recommended the Hyatt Jersey City hotel as a potential site, and brochures were sent to all BOD members. Bob Rubin said that although he was skeptical, he visited the property and was impressed that it looks even better than the brochure.

There seem to be two schools of thought regarding hosting the conference in New York or New Jersey. Bob Rubin said that he falls into the group that feels if you are going to do it in



The Dispute Resolution Board Foundation

Fostering common-sense dispute resolution worldwide

NY, do it right and don't try to do it on the cheap – which translates into roughly \$250 a night for hotel and a registration fee of \$500. If the Foundation isn't ready to do that, then the Board should consider a different location. Previous meetings have been based on a much lower budget level but never felt cheap, and we don't want to leave people with that feeling about the next venue.

Bill Baker said he's been to several meetings outside of NYC and they went well. He doesn't buy into the idea of needing to be in the city. In SF, we were outside the city and it was successful.

Jack Woolf said NY is different because of the possibility of taking advantage of the glitz – the chance to see a show, etc. An idea was raised to unbundle the meeting space from the hotel rooms, using one of the many independent dining clubs in the city. Steve Fox did follow up on two smaller hotels – one couldn't accommodate the large room block, and the other quoted a room rate over \$300.

Hal McKittrick echoed Bill Baker's sentiment, stating that 50% of the venues have been at airport hotels or places that are not necessarily attractive but convenient to downtown locations. He reminded the group that the original focus during location selection is to choose an area that would benefit from the expansion of the DRB message. The issue becomes how many local participants and decision makers we can draw in Manhattan vs. Newark. In Denver, the attendance was disappointing – most attendees were the “choir,” with about 1/3 being the directors. He urged the Board to not lose site of the main reason for choosing a location.

Hal suggested we explore NY further. Jack Woolf suggested two constructive steps in the effort to make a final decision on NY: call the NY Convention and Visitors Bureau and ask for their recommendations, and explore unbundling the meeting space from the hotel, and simply provide a list of hotels in a variety of price ranges close to the meeting location.

Hal McKittrick stated the Board would defer a decision until these options can be reviewed. Bill Baker suggested determining where the Board would go if not NY, so that we stay on target. Larry Delmore suggested the following locations: Florida, Texas, Southern Calif., or Arizona/Nevada. Orlando was recommended because it is easy to get into, there are a lot of hotels and attractions, etc. Dallas was also suggested as an area that is starting to use DRBs and needs some attention.

After some discussion, the Board voted unanimously to consider Dallas a 2nd option if NY is eliminated as a host site.

In conclusion, it was agreed to take another month to look at some of the different options in NY before making a final decision. Simultaneously, Steve Fox will look for a venue in Dallas to take into consideration.

Other Business

DRBF member Peter Merrill has proposed working together to offer training programs in the southwest. It would allow the DRBF to get involved in the housing market, a huge sector that the Foundation has never been able to address. However, several Board members expressed concern about some of the details of the plan and how it would be implemented.



The Dispute Resolution Board Foundation

Fostering common-sense dispute resolution worldwide

President Hal McKittrick asked Larry Delmore get additional details about the proposal and present it to the Board for further discussion.

The meeting concluded at 1:10 p.m. The next BOD meeting will be Friday, January 13, 2006 at 12 p.m. EST.