



American Society of Civil Engineers
Philly Section Younger Member
Forum
Board Meeting Minutes



Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2013
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: STV
1818 Market Street, Suite 1410
Philadelphia, PA

Attendance List:

Chris Gray, Drew Sirianni, Steve Maakestad, Chris Renfro, Jesse Gormley, Brett Coleman, Zach Suralik, Kevin Brown, Andrew Bechtel, Nha Truong, Mike Zettlemoyer, Marc Preim, Niki Eno, Eammon Farley, Kazi Hassan

Via telephone: Scott Cepietz, Colette Montague, Allie Sedor

Responsibility for action items is indicated by **bold type**

- 1) The September 26th meeting minutes were approved.
- 2) Section/National Update
 - a) The YMF Budget of \$5,700 was approved. Chris Renfro noted that the bowling event went over budget by \$140 which will have to be accounted for in future events. Parts of funding will be taken from the student outreach and social events lines.
 - b) Jesse Gormley provided an update on the ASCE National Conference (10/9 to 10/12). The conference involved a round table discussion for YMFs that explained how to keep the colleges involved. It was noted that the YMF should obtain personal email addresses prior to graduation in order to keep the students in touch with the YMF.
 - c) Chris Gray noted that the November Section Dinner Meeting is on November 14th at the Loews Hotel. Jeff Knueppel from SEPTA will be the speaker.
 - d) **Chris Gray** will attend the ASCE Region 2 assembly which is on November 16th in Williamsport, PA.
 - e) **Amanda Kessler** is compiling the CYM Annual Report which is a 10 page summary of the events that the YMF has held in the past year.
 - f) Chris Gray mentioned that ERYMC will be held in Indianapolis on 2/7 and 2/8 this year. So far, **Chris Gray, Drew Sirianni, Steve Maakestad and Jesse Gormley** are attending. It is a leadership and networking conference. Kazi Hassan will represent the Philadelphia Section.
Post-Meeting Note: ERYMC attendees for YMF will be Chris Gray, Jesse Gormley, Kevin Brown, Nha Truong, & Brett Coleman.
- 3) Recap of Past Events
 - a) Scott Cepietz gave an update on the Villanova Day of Service which was held on 9/28. Five YMF members attended a day at the DePaul House to help cook food and clean for those in need.
 - b) Nha Truong provided an update on the Welcome Back Bowling Event which was held on 10/15. The event was very successful with record attendance (21 professionals plus 30 students with 20 waitlisted). Larger venues such as St. Monica Lanes in South Philadelphia should be considered for this event next year. Next year, the YMF should make sure that the College Students are split up to ensure networking with other YMF members.
 - c) The Temple Panel Discussion was held on 10/16. Kevin Brown, Colette Montague, Jen Pesch, Chris Gray and Brett Coleman answered several questions from the approximately 40 college students in attendance. Discussion generally focused on experience as a young professional. It may be helpful for future panels to have a more structured way to facilitate the flow of questions.

- d) The Widener University Visit was held on 10/21. There was a relatively small turnout as several students had an exam the next day. Kevin Brown, Colette Montague, and Chris Peter provided a presentation on design software including Microstation and AutoCAD.
- e) Drexel Senior Seminar Panel Discussion was held on 11/5 and organized by Dr. Martin. Drew Sirianni, Chris Renfro and Jesse Gormley joined this discussion which focused on lessons learned as a young engineer, getting started in the industry, as well as professional licensure.
- f) Kevin Brown and Brett Coleman met with the students at Swarthmore College on 11/4. Several different types of engineering students attended.

4) Upcoming Events

- a) **Nha Truong, Steve Maakestad** and two Villanova graduate students will present to civil engineering students at TCNJ on 11/13. The presentation will focus on several different aspects of Water Resources Engineering.
- b) The Arcelormittal Facility Tour will be held on 11/13. It is noted that this event already has 21 RSVPs. A waitlist will be set up once the registration is full.
- c) The Philabundance Hunger Relief volunteer event will be held on 11/26 in South Philadelphia. Zach Suralik noted that 24 have signed up for this event which is capped at 30. A waitlist will be set up once registration is full.
- d) A Villanova Panel Discussion will be held in the evening on 12/5. Panelist will likely include **Kevin Brown, Niki Eno, Chris Gray, Nha Truong and Scott Cepietz**. Kazi Hassan will be available as needed as a back-up speaker.
- e) The YMF will hold a Joint Happy Hour with ASHE on 12/12 at Rock Bottom Brewery at the King of Prussia Mall. This event should be posted on the website with an email blast sent out in the near future.
- f) Chris Gray requested that the YMF Board donate \$250 to the Future City Competition as in previous years. The Board approved this donation. Brett Coleman volunteered for this event which is on 1/25 at Union Hall near Washington and Delaware Avenue. Chris Gray requested that anyone else interested in being a Special Awards Evaluator to contact him.
- g) Chris Gray noted that the North Jersey Section YMF is organizing a ski trip to Camelback. The YMF will advertise this event on the website and through the email blast.
- h) Drew Sirianni provided an update on the Winter Social which is on 1/27. Drew noted that only about 2/3 of the companies on the list are covered and several donation letters need to be sent out by board members. Board members should notify Drew when letters are sent out. The list was distributed at the meeting for the board to sign up for additional companies that were not covered. **(All)**
- i) Jesse Gormley is meeting with Mike Franklin (teacher at Chester A. Arthur School) about the Civil Engineering Club curriculum for the spring of 2014. Jesse will be setting up a schedule but the CEC needs volunteers to run the sessions. The YMF is considering setting up similar program in another school in the suburbs with a contact from ASCE National.

5) Potential Events

- a) College Contacts
 - i) The YMF recently held a meeting with Swarthmore College on 11/4.
 - ii) The YMF will give a presentation to TCNJ civil engineering students on 11/13.
 - iii) **Kevin Brown** will follow up with Drexel Civil Engineering students about a meeting date.
- b) Community Service – *Zach/Scott*
 - i) The Philabundance volunteer event will be on 11/26.
 - ii) Zach Suralik and Scott Cepietz looking into a possible volleyball fundraising event (possibly at Widener) to be held in late February / early March. Proceeds could be used to help with Temple Garden and/or CanStruction.

- iii) **Zach Suralik and Scott Cepietz** will look into setting up a joint community service event with ASHE. They will contact Alexa Harper about clean up in Valley Forge Park.
- iv) Scott Cepietz will look into Cynwyd Trail for possible event in early Spring
- v) Zach Suralik will look at setting up another trail work event with FOW for the spring.
- c) K – 12 Outreach – *Jesse/Brett/Meredith*
 - i) **Kevin Brown** will forward his contact at Chester County for Boys & Girls Club of America.
- d) Professional Development – *Jen/Niki*
 - i) Niki Eno discussed possible topics for the Critical Issues Seminar. Risk and Liability is one topic that may be considered (personal and company levels). Natural Disaster Relief was another possible topic that was discussed.
- e) Technical Groups – *Marc/Jeremy*
 - i) Marc Preim noted that the Linc Renovation tour will not take place this year.
 - ii) The board agreed to put the 202/Pierson Construction Tour on the list for next year.
 - iii) Marc will organize the Schuylkill River Trail Boardwalk tour in the spring of 2014. Marc to follow-up with Joe Syrnick in February. Consider possible joint event with AEI Drexel Chapter since they are hosting the AEI National Conference concurrently and requested coordination.
- 6) Miscellaneous/Open Discussion
 - a) **Chris Renfro, Eammon Farley, and Jesse Gormley** will work on developing the Website for Civil Engineering Club.
 - b) **Chris Renfro and Kevin Brown** will likely lead Canstruction this year.
 - c) Chris Gray noted that Amanda has developed a Press Release for Civil Engineering Club that will be released to various publications. The board discussed possibly using a press release to request donations for Canstruction.
 - d) Board discussed utilizing an RSVP system through Constant Contact to automatically close registration if attendance is capped. Chris Gray to reach out to South Jersey YMF to see how they use this feature. It was also noted that this could be a topic for ERYMC 2014.
- 7) Officer Reports
 - a) Vice President (Drew Sirianni) – Drew will finish the Winter Social Event Flyer so that the event can be posted on the website.
 - b) Secretary (Stephen Maakestad) – Steve will send out an email blast with the upcoming events and will note any events in which registration is closed.
 - c) Treasurer (Chris Renfro) – Chris noted that event organizers should send expense reimbursement claims to Guy DiMartino but copy Chris on the email so that he can track the budget.
 - d) Congratulations to Amanda and Isaac on their anniversary!
 - e) K-12 Outreach Coordinator (Jesse Gormley / Brett Coleman / Meredith Lis) – Nothing Additional.
 - f) Community Service Chair (Zach Suralik / Scott Cepietz) – Nothing Additional.
 - g) College Contacts Chair (Kevin Brown / Andrew Bechtel) – Kevin thanked YMF board members who have assisted in college outreach this year. Also noted that scholarships are being advertised.
 - h) Social Chair (Nha Truong / Mike Zettlemoyer) – Nothing Additional.
 - i) Technical Groups Chair (Marc Preim / Jeremy Pampuch) – Nothing Additional.
 - j) Affiliate Society Liaison (Colette Montague) – Nothing Additional.
 - k) Professional Development Chair (Jen Reigle / Niki Eno) – Board members should send any ideas for professional development topics to Niki.
 - l) Social Media Chair (Adrienne Nikolic / Allie Sedor) – Nothing Additional.
 - m) IT Chair (Eammon Farley) – Nha to upload photos from bowling event to eRoom for Eammon to add to website

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- n) Past President (Kazi Hassan) – Kazi thanked the College Contacts Chairs for doing a good job with outreach. Kazi discussed the awards that are presented at ERYMC and noted that we may have a good chance at winning the Peers Group Award.
 - o) Mentors (Jeremy Chrzan, Cathy Farrell) – Not in attendance.
- 8) The next board meeting will be scheduled sometime in early January with a conference call for the winter social planning in mid-December. The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.