



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



**Date:** Tuesday, July 15, 2014  
**Time:** 5:30 PM  
**Location:** Urban Engineers  
530 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA

Attendance List: Kevin Brown, Eammon Farley, Darren D'Achille, Meredith Lis, Allie Sedor, Brett Coleman, Kristin Leese, Drew Sirianni, Paige Glassman, Zachary Suralik, Adrienne Donaghue, Nha Truong, Jeremy Pampuch, Brian Einstein, Joe Natale, Jesse Gormley, Chris Renfro, Amanda Kessler, Chris Gray

Via telephone: Scott Cepietz, Jen Reigle

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

- 1) April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were approved.
- 2) Introduction
  - a) Drew gave background on the ASCE YMF for those new to the board as well as discussed how our goals are to support the section and to help transition student members into associate members upon graduation.
  - b) Drew passed around the 2014/2015 board contact list to allow board members to confirm the information was correct or make necessary changes.
  - c) Officer responsibilities sheet was passed around for board member to review.
  - d) Everyone is to get bios, bio updates and pictures to Eammon within a week. **(All)**
  - e) The board went around and introduced themselves.
- 3) Section/National Update
  - a) Drexel won the regional concrete canoe competition. Drexel asked the section for financial assistance so they could attend the national concrete canoe competition. The section provided assistance using monies from the Humphrey fund. The section asked us to get the word out to the students to increase their fundraising efforts before asking to get funds from the ASCE. It was discussed that the students can reach out to engineering companies and the YMF can help by reaching out to their respective firms.
  - b) The Section would like to begin featuring colleges at the section dinner meeting again. College contact chairs can maybe help out with advertising and getting students to these dinner meetings.
  - c) Considering adopting a stretch of highway with ASHE YMC. Will look into the process to successfully adopt a highway and also will confirm that there are two ways of adopting a highway; Pay and PennDOT maintains the road or pay a lesser fee and the group who adopts the highway goes out 4 times a year to clean that stretch of roadway. **(Coleman/Kessler)**
  - d) Chris G. discussed a leadership seminar called the Presidents and Governors Forum coming up in September hosted at the ASCE headquarters in Reston, VA. Details on the seminar are forthcoming. Chris G. also mentioned that ERYMC (Eastern Regional Younger Members Council) will be in Miami and may be taking place around February 2015.
- 4) Recap of Past Events
  - a) Jeremy recapped the US-202 tour. About 15 people showed up to tour a portion of the 4-5 mile section of US-202 construction site. The project consisted of slip form pavement, noise walls and bridge & culvert widening. Jeremy encouraged the board to send ideas for tours to him and Joe.
  - b) Jen R. gave a general overview of the Critical Issues Seminar for those who may not be familiar with the event. The Critical Issues Seminar (CIS) was on April 30<sup>th</sup> and the topic was.

- c) *Modernizing and Maintaining Infrastructure.* There were 75 RSVPs and 45 attendees; the 60% attendance rate could have been because of the rain and the NHL Playoffs. The 5 panelist discussed and answered questions on the topic of modernizing and maintaining infrastructure. \$800 was used for this event. Jen R. informed the professional development chairs that the Engineers Club of Philadelphia (ECP) were interested in helping this year but it wasn't in their budget but would be willing to help for this year's CIS.
- d) Chris R. summarized what CANstruction is and how the YMF participates. The ASCE YMF team raised \$3,000 which set a new record. The team also obtained over 14,000 cans which lead to the YMF winning an award for the most cans. Steve M. and his contact with Campbell's played a huge part in the team being successful. There were a large number of students from Temple University that helped throughout all stages of CANstruction. There was more than \$600 left over and all that needs to be done is to have the check written out to Philabundance. **(Renfro)**
- e) Zach S. is the YMF's tie to Friends of the Wissahickon (FOW). On May 10<sup>th</sup> 12-15 volunteers showed up to help build trails and add steps for the Orange Trail reconstruction volunteer event. On June 28<sup>th</sup> about 10 volunteers came out to help with this effort. Drew stated that this is an event that takes less planning and is fairly easy to set up.
- f) Jesse G. gave an overview of the CivE club for those who may not have been familiar with it. There was a heavy YMF representation at the CivE Club Awards Ceremony where 7 students tested their balsa wood bridges in a competition to see whose bridge could support the most weight. The same young lady won both awards. Talked about the CivE club going forward which sparked discussion about opening this opportunity up to a suburban school which will allow those who work in the suburbs to volunteer. Discussed advertising this volunteer opportunity to the YMF listserv. Some felt this was OK but there should be some sort of screening before allowing the volunteer into the classroom.
- g) The Election Happy Hour took place on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Tavern on Broad and it was very successful. The event went slightly over budget but was able to get everyone's first drink for free.
- h) A joint Quizzo Event took place with IEEE and YAF on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and it was a very fun and successful event. The YMF spent \$250 for the event. About 70 people attended the event and Chris G.'s team won quizzo. It was mentioned that it would be a good idea to add this to the YMF's list of events this year and budget \$200 for it. It gives the YMF a chance to connect with other societies the YMF typically wouldn't have the opportunity to. Write up to be uploaded to the eRoom. **(Gray)**

All past event write-ups and pictures are to be uploaded to the eRoom within a week.

#### 5) Upcoming Events

- a) The Region 2 Jamboree will be taking place this weekend (7/18 to 7/20) and RSVPs are due tomorrow (7/16) and as of today only 9 have signed up. There will be food trucks, a campsite, hiking, a disc golf course and the group will be going to Hershey Park (if the park isn't flooded). The first one was set up by the Pittsburgh section but this one is more centrally located and discussions included the Central PA, Lehigh and Pittsburgh sections.
- b) Mike Franklin from Chester A. Arthur Middle School asked the YMF for volunteers to assist with the Drexel STEM camp that is taking place on 7/23. An hour before the trip there would be a presentation then they would get on a bus and go to the Race street pier where history and facts will be given about the Ben Franklin Bridge. Brett and Nha have volunteered to assist with this
- c) Drew stepped in to assist the chairs with the Phillies tailgate. By the time the RSVP closed for this event there were 71 people signed up. It was mentioned that there are typically more people signed up for this event. Additional details have to be worked out with South Jersey and Delaware; food, drinks, grill and canopy. Chris G. has a gas grill he can bring. Typically Delaware is more involved on the planning side of this event.

This is the first event that EventSpot was used. The general feeling is that the change to using EventSpot was not the reason for the drop in RSVPs. Most of the people who signed up used paypal. It is possible to export the RSVP list from event spot and there is less of a need to continue to use the old RSVP system, in addition, there is no extra charge for using event spot. It was determined that setting up the RSVPs is the responsibility of the IT Chair. Event spot login information to be given to Eammon so he can monitor the RSVPs. **(Drew)** Discussion took place about whether to keep the events tab on the YMF website and provide a link to the new RSVP pages or getting rid of it altogether. An idea was put out there to phase it out over a year but some think that keeping it could cause double the work. This will be considered further and a decision will be presented at next board meeting.

6) Potential Events

- a) Brett and Kolleen met at the beginning of last month with a representative from the Downingtown STEM Academy. They expressed interest in a CivE club. Jesse recommended that the suburban schools be contacted so that we can tap into those schools as well. It was mentioned that there may be a possibility of getting student volunteers from the colleges in the suburban areas. **(Coleman/Backlund)**
- b) Discussed that having another scavenger hunt would be good to interact with the students. Talk around when would be the best time to have the event. Spring seemed to be a good idea and with the FE exam being offered at different times it may free up more weekends. Suggested that this gets included this in the budget. Thought about possibly finding a way to combine this with the graduation picnic but that event is exclusive to seniors. It may come down to choosing between the picnic or the scavenger hunt. **(Brown)**
- c) Last year's Welcome Back Bowling event was such a huge success it sparked conversation on possibly moving the event to another bowling alley that is larger. Have to decide if it's best to pack a smaller venue or have a larger venue that may not be filled. PEP Bowl is still an inexpensive venue and keeping the event there for now is probably best. St. Monica Lanes was mentioned and it has 12 lanes; it's worth checking out. **(Lis)** For the upcoming bowling event board members should try to get on a lane with the students. College contacts should advertise early to students and send constant reminders.

7) Miscellaneous Business

- a) There has been a YMF Mock Interview Committee created. Idea stemmed from sharing ideas with other sections at ERYMC 2014. Kevin B. summarized the process that would take place. Kevin also mentioned that providing mock interview services to students and recent grads will allow the YMF to interact with the students. The committee is in the process of getting trained on how to give an interview and they're looking for volunteers who have experience giving interviews to possibly give a mock interview or share some tips. Drew to reach out to the section for volunteers. **(Sirianni)** Brett to forward resume book idea to Kevin. **(Coleman)** The general consensus was that this is a good idea and it will benefit the interviewer just as much as the interviewee. **(Brown, Kessler, Suralik, Zettlemyer)**
- b) Kevin proposed the YMF creates a "Marketing" type of video that compiles videos and pictures of all the great things the YMF does and then post it to our social media pages and also possibly show it at college visits, the winter social and section dinner meeting. The goal is to get others excited about what the YMF does and then they may want to participate in activities. Kevin encouraged everyone to take pictures at any YMF event that they attend (even board meetings and happy hours). **(Brown)**
- c) Drew and Chris G. are to take care of dividing the winter social monies and delivering letters to Bridges to Prosperity and Philabundance. **(Sirianni/Gray)**

8) Officer Reports

- a) Vice President (Chris Renfro) – Chris is gearing up for the Winter Social. Chris confirmed that ECP got the check for DVEW. Chris also double checked that Drew got reimbursed for the winter social and that Jesse and Brett got reimbursed for the CivE Club. Surplus in funds: \$100 remaining for the initial college contact meeting, \$100 left for marketing, \$100 left for each volunteer events and for technical groups, and several hundred for miscellaneous. The Humphrey fund provided financial assistance for the CivE club this year and Jesse doesn't anticipate using all of the money; he may try to get a new banner. Jesse and Chris R. will compare numbers for the CivE Club. **(Gormley/Renfro)** Discussed ideas on how to spend the remaining money. Remember that money can be used for Gatorade or pizza after a volunteer event. Chris G. discussed maybe using money for the Jamboree. Maybe do another FOW event with a picnic afterward.
- b) Secretary (Kevin Brown) – Reminder to take pictures and to upload them to the eRoom. There are currently 759 people on the YMF ListServ. Remember to email Kevin with people's email address if people are interested in getting updated on YMF events.
- c) Treasurer (Amanda Kessler) – Amanda will get with Chris for transition **(Renfro/Kessler)**
- d) Newsletter/Public Relations (Kristin Leese) – Kristin will get with Amanda for transition. **(Kessler/Leese)**
- e) K-12 Outreach Coordinator (Brett Coleman/Kolleen Backlund) – Brett has been asking new hires if they'd like to be involved with the YMF. Kolleen is reaching out to GreatValley High School to see if they would like the YMF to come again to give a presentation on Civil Engineering and lead an interactive demonstration.
- f) CivE Club Coordinator (Nha Truong) – Nothing Additional
- g) Community Service Chair (Zach Suralik/Jesse Gormley) – Jesse proposes we find some volunteer event to use the surplus money. Maybe man a water table at a marathon and talk about recycling and its importance. Requesting more time to get ideas. **(Gormley)**
- h) College Contacts Chair (Adrienne Donaghue/ Paige Glassman) – Adrienne and Paige will get with Kevin for transition **(Donaghue/Glassman/Brown)**
- i) Social Chair (Mike Zettlemyer/ Meredith Lis) – Meredith will check on St. Monica Lanes **(Lis)**
- j) Technical Groups Chair (Jeremy Pampuch/Joe Natale) – Jeremy asked if anyone would be interested in presenting at a section dinner meeting in October and November; no one is currently set to present for these months. Jeremy has a contact with the Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk construction but doing a tour there may be a liability to have people on the structure. Maybe we can get on once the railing is up but the project is still under construction. Discussed a fall facility or construction site tour. Please submit any ideas to Jeremy and Joe
- k) Affiliate Society Liaison (Scott Cepietz) – Departed from meeting
- l) Professional Development Chair (Allie Sedor, Darren D'Achille) – Interested in doing a golf lesson type of event. Discussed doing a resume session or a personality in the workplace event. Suggested having a presentation on the I495 bridge. Also suggested that a survey is sent to the entire ListServ to see what the YMF would like. **(Sedor/D'Achille)**
- m) Social Media Chair (Brian Einstein) – There has been an increase in 'Likes' on the Facebook page. Also, uploaded an article sent in by Allie. If anyone has an article or video they would like posted send it to Brian
- n) IT Chair (Eammon Farley) – Remember to zip photos before uploading them to the eRoom. Don't forget to send bios.
- o) Past President (Chris Gray) – Plan early as possible and help out your fellow board members. The board is doing a great job!
- p) Mentors (Kazi Hassan/Jeremy Chrzan) – Not Present
- 9) Drew will send out a doodle poll to schedule the next meeting. **(Sirianni)**