



Meeting Minutes

Engineers Without Borders – Chicagoland Professional Chapter

Date: May 28, 2008

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Location: University of Illinois at Chicago, Engineering Research Facility

1. Jumana Vasi, Development and Marketing Manager for Little Village Community Development Corporation discussed marketing and fundraising for not-for-profit organizations.
 - a. She pointed out that 80% of giving in the USA comes from individual gifts. About 5% comes from corporations and 12% from foundations.
 - b. The two primary reasons people give to an organization is because they've been asked by someone they trust and to feel better about themselves.
 - c. People don't give to causes, they give to people. It's important to establish a personal rapport and level of trust with donors.
 - d. You don't raise funds, you raise friends. Friends don't want to see you fail.
 - e. Follow up with donors after an event is key. Let them know that their donation is appreciated and where it will be used.
2. Eamon Gary – Fundraising Chairman discussed the Fundraising Dinner on June 26th.
 - a. Tickets are \$50 for professionals, \$25 for students if purchased before June 13th
 - b. There will be a silent auction including items from project trips
 - c. There will be a speaker from the Chicago Dept. of Environment discussing sustainable cities
 - d. We'd like to get at least 200 attendees. The venue will accommodate up to 300.
 - e. Corporate booths and sponsorships are available.
3. Joe Fitzpatrick, Research & Training Chair introduced two groups of Northwestern University students working on projects researching opportunities to improve water supplies in Bangladesh
 - a. Laura MacDonald, Maggie Pakula, Allison Jones and Steve Althoff discussed arsenic removal and options to provide potable and gray water for a small village including ram pumps, sedimentation tanks, sand filters and an extended plane settling basin.
 - b. Chris Trigg and Ghanzal __ presented a design to use dug wells and rainwater harvesting to meet residential needs and to provide rice field irrigation.
4. Sue Smith, Social Chair discussed the dragon boat race and social event in St. Charles on June 7th. Attendees will meet at Potawattami Park at 7:30 am. The social event will be at the home of AJ and Lois Voth, 535 Post Avenue, St. Charles from 11am to 4pm. Food and drinks will be served. Additional information will be posted on the chapter website.

5. The IIT Chapter announced their Pignon, Haiti High School Photovoltaic Electrical System project has been approved pending a lifting of the travel warning for Haiti. They are also looking for a mentor familiar with water distribution for their water supply project also in Haiti.
6. Bill Walsh announced that an EWB-CPC group has been setup on lcarpool.com to help arrange carpools for members to coordinate driving to chapter meetings and events. He will send an email out with more details.
7. Maureen Kolkka, Projects Chair is trying to arrange a general projects meeting next week.
8. AJ Voth read a letter from the director of TEACH thanking EWB-CPC for all the great work done on the new bridge in El Estor, Guatemala. He also announced that EWB-CPC has received a plaque award from Oak Park Rotary for the same project.
9. Aaron Datesman, Treasurer, acknowledge the great work and dedication given by Jessica Kaminsky as president of EWB-CPC. He also presented a gift from the chapter to Jessica's husband John. All EWB-CPC members extend best wishes and good luck to John and Jessica as they begin new journeys.