



FPC MEMBERS MEETING

4/18/08

MINUTES

Attendees: A. Fong, R. Berridge, J. Eichenholz, G. Hogan, M. Kantor, D. Pape, J. Pearson, R. Pini, E. Schons, P. Sofferman, E. Uskowitz, R. Williamson

1.0 The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm by President Alex Fong.

2.0 Election Results. The recently distributed results of the election of board members and officers for 2008 was presented.

3.0 Review of FPC Accomplishments. Alex Fong reviewed the mission and benefits of the FPC and the accomplishments over the past 15 months. A good deal of progress has been made on several fronts, including increase of the membership from 17 to 28. His presentation is on the FPC website via a link from the home page <http://www.floridaphotonicscluster.com/>.

4.0 Treasurer's Report. Dennis Pape reviewed the financial status of the cluster. There have been a few expenses, but the balance of funds has nearly doubled since the last report with the payment of member dues for 2008. The current balance is \$11,113.61. During the discussion of the budget, the following comments and suggestions (actions noted) were made:

- We need to develop an expense plan and budget for 2008. Randy Berridge suggested contacting Ed Jacobs, former CFO at Agere in Orlando to help with this. (action to Dennis Pape, Jim Pearson to draft for Board review and approval)
- Although the net to FPC is zero, add to the Cluster's cash flow record the expense and payment to Gray-Robinson for their work on getting the FPC's nonprofit 501c(6) status renewed. Since the Florida High Tech Corridor Council paid Gray-Robinson directly, Randy Berridge took the action to supply the numbers. Many thanks again to Randy Berridge and the FHTCC for this support.)

5.0 FPC Activities for 2008. A general discussion on the activities that the FPC should undertake this year produced the following list:

- a) Get the University of Florida to join the FPC. This would then have all the universities in the High Tech Corridor participating in the FPC since UCF and USF currently are members.
- b) Examine the possibility of FPC participation at Laser Munich in 2009, possibly with Enterprise Florida, Metro Orlando EDC, and other groups. (Action: Ed Schons, Eric Ushkowitz)
- c) Develop the directory of Florida photonics companies
 - Get a UCF intern to work on this. (Randy Berridge and the FHTCC will help with the cost)
 - Get the OSA, SPIE, and LIA to join the FPC and provide benefits to FPC members such as exhibit discounts, corporate membership dues discount, etc.

- Get magazines such as Laser Focus World and Photonics Spectra to provide a Florida cut from their directory to help assure complete coverage. Also ask OSA, SPIE, and LIA for a similar cut from their corporate member directories.
- d) Get Dr. Eric Streeter to give his seminar on how to effectively use SBIR and STTR programs. Consider 2 versions: short course; webinar/podcast. Randy Berridge and the FHTCC will help with the cost.
- e) Help develop support for continuation of state match to Phase 2 SBIR/STTR grants.
- Jason Eichenholz said that Ocean Optics, Inc. can be used as a “poster child” for the success of the program.
 - Get information to members on what actions they can take as individuals and their company. (Action: Jim Pearson)
- f) Get “Introduction to Photonics” short course(s) provided for technician training at companies. (Action: Jim Pearson) Ideas for this:
- Ray Williamson may be able to provide some course content
 - Contact Al Ducharme for suggestions and his possible participation
 - Use, add, modify what Valencia Community College is doing now
 - Develop some content with SPIE help
 - Survey companies to see what topics and course content is needed
- g) Continue to develop and use the FPC website.
- Use the Blog
 - Send ideas, inputs, suggestions to Alex Fong
- h) Have meetings roughly once a quarter, with an attractive program. Try to have the program something that can be done with a web seminar arrangement such as what UCF/CREOL has with Premier Conferencing (has been used for some FPC board meetings).
- i) Get a couple of SPIE/OSA “Hands-On Optics” kits to make them available to FPC members to use with their local K-12 schools. (Action: Jim Pearson)
- j) Work with Guy Hagen on a Photonics Research Project, funded by the FHTCC. The project, which will update a similar effort conducted in 1999, has several tasks that will need participation from Florida photonics companies including statistical surveys, “future mapping” interview sessions, and other activities aimed at producing information on the size and distribution of companies in the state as well as building a roadmap for increasing the prominence and strength of Florida’s photonics industry. (Action: all FPC members)

6.0 Meeting adjourned, 4:15pm