

**737 Comstock Avenue Inc. (a.k.a. House Corp.)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 21, 2018**

**Syracuse, NY**

**Alumni Brothers in Attendance**

Hank Suominen (Board President and Treasurer), Bill Gerbig (Board Secretary), Brad Short (Board Member, Alumni Chapter President) Phil Oldham (Vice President, Alumni Chapter Editor), Bill Beach (Board Member), Paul Norcross, Joe D'Eramo (Board Member), Al Bishop, Chris Dowd (Board Member, by phone), Scott Ziegler, Greg Sozek

**Undergraduate Brothers in Attendance**

Brandon Das (Consul), Khalil Jean-Baptiste (Pro Consul), Dante Sesti (Past Consul)

**Others in Attendance**

Jim Whitbread

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from February 10, 2018 were approved

**Property Management**

Gill Grilling has replaced Good Uncle and is back to managing board club. The food has been good, but brothers have been getting sick and food poisoning is suspected. All agreed that we should discuss this with Gill Grilling as soon as possible. Other options are Upper Crest and Campus Cooks. Hank suggested that the relationship with Shiri Marchand, who manages our account for Gill Grilling, should be better and issues should be handled with her rather than through the cook. Brian Gill wasn't aware of an issue, according to Hank. Hank agreed to talk to both Shiri and Brian about the issue. Current cleanliness in the kitchen and pantry and surrounding area isn't what it should be, and will also be discussed with Shiri. The freezer, ice machine, and dishwasher were replaced a year ago. We've passed all inspections successfully.

Expected headcount is 32 for the Fall and 26 for the Spring next year, according to Brandon. Only one person has registered so far. We currently have 90 active brothers, and 42 of them have registered as

members. The deadline for both member and house occupancy registration has passed. Hank expressed that his single biggest time waster is trying to get people signed up for housing, which also adds to our accounting expense. Electronic signature is now available. Parents can complete a guarantee form online, and credit card payment is now an option. Hank has taken all of these steps to make it easier to register, and has instituted a \$150 late fee. There were several suggestions to raise the late fee significantly to eliminate this issue. Hank agreed to consider that, and proposed that the money collected will be used for a scholarship fund.

Hank explained that maximum capacity for parties is 228, based on Headquarters restrictions.

Bill Beach asked about house maintenance projects planned for this summer. Hank answered that there are no major projects planned. The foyer floor is a consideration, but probably another year away. We're carrying \$92,000 in debt from past projects would like to get that paid down. Jim Whitbread reported that we're almost out of floor tiles necessary to continue to repair the existing floor. Update: Hank talked to our electrician and found out that there is some work left on the first floor (back bedrooms), and basement where circuits need to be moved off the old panels and onto the new one already installed. The scope is being defined and this will be completed this summer.

Phil Oldham agreed to investigate a 501c3 for tax deductible donations in order to encourage more capital contributions.

Joe D'Eramo proposed scheduling an energy audit.

### **Alumni programs**

Phil Oldham has been doing a good job getting the Saltine Sig published on time. Phil stated that our next issue needs to be mailed by July 6<sup>th</sup>. In order to meet that deadline, all material needs to be ready by June 7<sup>th</sup>. Phil shared his schedule for getting reports in on time. All agreed that recent content has been excellent. The focus of the next issue will be the new policies and our solutions for compliance.

Orange Central is scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup>, which will be during the alcohol free period, so we will have an alcohol free Homecoming.

Phil discussed plans for a project to build connection between undergrads and alumni and shared a document he prepared to organize the effort. Everyone agreed that we need to build a better database of members. Greg Sozek has created an e-mail address for that purpose, [syracuseex@gmail.com](mailto:syracuseex@gmail.com). Hank suggested that logging into the website and providing updated contact information is a more automated way to keep our database up to date.

### **Consul's Report**

Meeting Minutes  
April 21, 2018

The house is on probation from an incident involving an issue with an open container outside the house (red Solo cup). Hank expressed his opinion that “probation” suggests more than is actually the case. It seems that this was a warning prior to the Chapter being subject to disciplinary action. With the recent incidents at Theta Tau and Sigma Alpha Mu, we need to build a positive story and avoid any situations that could hurt our standing. The Chancellor is planning a review of all Greek organizations, and we need to be well prepared for the University’s scrutiny.

We had a vigorous discussion on the HQ ban on hard alcohol and its requirement to remain alcohol free from Rush to Initiation. Brandon confirmed that the Chapter was prepared to handle it.

The brotherhood has one person planning to attend Horizons and 3 or 4 ready to go to BLTW in Bowling Green. The Alumni Chapter will contribute to make up any shortfalls in expense reimbursement.

Hank expressed interest in getting the initiation roll books cleaned up.

The Chapter recently received its third consecutive Peterson Award, its fifth in six years.

### **Scholarship**

Bill Beach announced that Branden Resnick and John Frieda received \$2000 each from the Sigma Chi Foundation scholarship. The awards must pass through the University before they will receive them. Bill agreed to walk them through the process once he gets them signed. Bill plans to initiate correspondence to encourage applications be filled out this summer.

The Joe Nelson scholarship awards \$2000 to a Sigma Chi and AZD each year, and Bill is planning to distribute that award early in the Fall.

The VP of the Sigma Chi Foundation is a Psi Psi, Joe Derzo, and we expect that he will eventually be named President of the Foundation.

Member registration by an undergrad assures him that he will receive all correspondence on scholarships.

Bill also noted that two Psi Psi’s, Ted Spall and Don Sheffmeyer have been named Significant Sigs.

### **Miscellaneous**

From June 29<sup>th</sup> through July 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be the alumni “weekend at the house” with brothers from the late 70’s. Joe D’Eramo expressed interest in scheduling a similar event for a group from his era. Hank encouraged more era reunions of this type – the house will be made available for them. Bill Beach reported that there is a group from the late 60’s and early 70’s planning an event in 2019.

Meeting Minutes  
April 21, 2018

Dante Sesti, past Consul, expressed interest in joining House Corp. He is graduating this semester. He will be nominated with other candidates at the annual meeting at this fall (at Homecoming).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*William Gerbig*

William Gerbig, Secretary