Minutes, August 2, 2013

Present: Alan, Maya, Rory, Jo Ellen, Eric, Sharon, Shay, Maureen

Absent: Steve, Lisa

Check in: we briefly discussed alternatives to freeconferencecall.com like Ready Talk.

Jo Ellen gave update on her Chicago trip:

Members: Jo Ellen met with In These Times, Chicago Reporter, and TruthOut in Chicago, and with WIN, The Progressive, and CMD in Madison. CMD has pledged to become a member!

Hotels: see attached sheet.

Discussion: Everyone thought the University Center Conference Center was the best choice, but concern was expressed about the labor situation at catering provider Aramark. Some concern was expressed about asking people to walk 2 blocks in the winter from hotel to center, but that concern was dismissed.

By voice vote, the coordinating committee approved contracting with the University Center Conference Center for meeting facilities, pending a brief investigation by Jo Ellen to ensure that Aramark faces no labor issues.

By voice vote, the coordinating committee approved contracting with the Wyndham Blake for a room block as soon as we are prepared to enter a contract with the University Center.

By voice vote, the coordinating committee approved holding the 2014 conference on February 27-March 2. The tentative schedule is

* Thursday, February 27: pre-meeting workshops

with AM coffee and PM coffee but no lunch

* Thursday evening kick-off reception/talk
* Friday, February 28: meeting begins

AM coffee, lunch, and PM coffee with snack

* Saturday, March 1: meeting continues

AM coffee, lunch, and PM coffee with snack

* Sunday, March 2: strategic planning with TMC members

AM coffee and lunch

The Coordinating Committee then reviewed the draft budget. Committee members clearly wanted time to review the budget so discussion was limited.

Rory raised the question of FNP’s fee, and asked about going independent in part to avoid the fee. Jo Ellen pointed out that TMC would have bookkeeping and accountinf fees even if independent, but agreed that the issue of incorporating as a 501c3 is on the table. Indeed, Jo Ellen plans to discuss this issue with Steve and Madeleine shortly, and that it might be the focus of our strategic planning in February.

Jo Ellen closed the meeting by asking Cocom members to consider which of the following topics should be the focus of our September meeting:

1. The 2014 budget;

2. The CJTI program—the marketing effort will be near completion and producing results by early September;

3. The program for the annual meeting in February

Meeting concluded as usual at 11am PT.