
Action Item:

1. MSA to authorize Rob Copeland to sign a lease with the City of Sarasota for a building to be used for our national headquarters.
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President Rob Copeland called the meeting to order at 8:34 p.m. EDT. Also present were Vice Presidents Leo Letendre, Mark Gill, Julie Heather and Mike Heather; Secretary Meg Smath; Executive Director Rob Butcher; At-Large Directors Anthony Thompson (Breadbasket), Betsy Durrant (Colonies), Jerry Clark (Dixie), Nadine Day (Great Lakes), Jeanne Ensign (Northwest), Michael Moore (Oceana) and Don Mehl; and Past-Presidents Ted Haartz and Nancy Ridout.

Lease for Sarasota property

Rob B presented a spreadsheet comparing the costs associated with two candidate properties for our national headquarters in Sarasota. He recommended that USMS agree to a lease with the City of Sarasota for a building it owns. Mike asked if we would be able to enlarge the building if we need more room in the future, and Rob B said it was doubtful, although Jerry Clark said that was not specifically precluded in the proposed agreement. Julie asked if it was likely we would be asked to vacate the property in less than two years, and Rob B said that was very unlikely. Michael asked about costs for renovating the property to meet our needs, and Rob B explained that would depend on the configuration we choose, and therefore would be largely under our control. **MSA to authorize Rob Copeland to sign a lease with the City of Sarasota for this property.**

Overbudget request

Rob B will submit an overbudget request to the Finance Committee to cover expenses associated with establishing our national headquarters in Sarasota. He thanked our previous controller, Margaret Bayless, for her help in preparing the overbudget submission.

Next meeting and adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:25p.m. EDT. Our next meeting will be June 2, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

Meg Smath
Secretary