

Nov 8th, 2015 FAC BOD Agenda & Minutes

November 8, 2015, 5:40 pm. Meeting adjourned 7:40 pm.

Present (8/13): Jered, Chuck, Dan, Doug, Ike, Drew, Kendra, Liz, Blake

Absent (17/13): Jesse

Guests (0):

Minutes recorded by: Kendra

Agenda

1. Pizza
2. Approve Old Minutes
3. Review Old Actions
4. Making Meetings Effective
5. 2016 Officer Elections
6. Event Lead Search
7. MOOP Map Discussion
8. Identify Missing Tasks
9. Other
10. Next Meeting Date

Old Actions

- Kendra: Find out if Velir's security issues still allow for Firefly art.
 - No luck reaching our contact so far; will continue trying; in person on 18th
- Ike: Contact volunteer lawyer for the arts and ask if they're still available for us. Ask for recommendations about the best option for obtaining timelier answers to questions: perhaps have a firm on retainer?
 - Ike has not contacted the volunteer lawyer yet but will do so.
 - Ike sent an email during the meeting.
 - Jered's patent lawyer has put him in contact with a lawyer in the right specialty; may introduce Chuck
- Ike: Consider writing retrospective about time on board, changes over time.
 - Ike is still considering writing a retrospective
- Officer elections in October.
 - This is happening now
- Liz: Will update website.
 - Liz and Jered met; Jered will update the templates and plugins based on this meeting, then Liz will make content and organizational updates
- Call for new event lead.

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- Tarn commented; Doug should look at it before the end of today, sent out afterward.

New Actions

- Kendra to keep pinging Velir
- ~~Ike to clean up and send email to volunteer lawyer~~ Ike sent an email during the November 8 meeting.
- Jered to introduce Chuck to new lawyer
- Jered to update templates and plugins
- Liz to update website content
- Kendra to grab camp placement info from Placement
- Board: should email the list with individual suggestions for BoD and approve that list next meeting (Drew will send email to these as well as our 2014 candidates)
- Jered: Email Tarn and Masha with BoD consideration(s) for Event Leads, ask them to reach out if they are in agreement.
- Kendra: figure out filings and update BoD membership.
- Jered: introduce Doug to Vermont land contact

Decisions Made

Pizza

Chicken Pesto Pizza
Veggie Pizza
Buffalo Wings
Korean BBQ wings
Dumplings

Approve Old Minutes

No minutes to approve this meeting - punt to December

Making Meetings Effective

Purpose: Discuss meeting format, share resources, and identify next steps for improving how Firefly Board Meetings are run (15 minutes) -- Jered

Jered sent out the agenda the Wednesday before the meeting, in an effort to have Board members review, prepare and update. Also: timebox or constrain topics so that open-ended

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items aren't happening (unless indicated/deliberate) -- Indicate Owner

Chuck solicited suggestions, included President as strong moderator, prepare topics on agenda in advance.

2016 Officer Elections

Purpose: Determine Firefly Board office holders for 2016. (15 minutes)

All present but Ike are eligible

Jesse is also eligible

Ike ("Interim, Reluctant..."): Jered

President: Jered

Vice-President: Drew

Treasurer: Chuck

Clerk: Kendra

Director of Legal Affairs: Chuck

Spontaneous Discussion: Addtl. Board Member Call?

- Bylaws dictate 7-21 board members
- New blood increases engagement and distributes workload/helps prevent burnout.
- We have a relatively high turnover rate, which impedes longer-term planning.
- Is this what we want? A smaller group that works more closely is likelier to sustain longer terms (~5 years), but also more likely to experience burnout.
- Delegation to committees (e.g. Festival committee) assists in delegating tasks.
- Need knowledge transfer to be effective - bottleneck on individual person leaving
- Firefly is an _experiment_ in community and maximum effectiveness is not necessarily the goal
- Term limits? If anything, we have the opposite problem right now (retention)
- A good mix of institutional knowledge and new ideas is ideal
- Some discussion of diversity both on the Board and in the community
 - race?
 - gender?
 - age?
 - ~camp?
 - geographic location year-round?
 - parents?
- Some discussion of combating perception of exclusivity
- What is the desired direction for the Board?
 - Stewardship of the event and org?
 - Providing new direction?

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- What can we learn from comparable orgs?
- We should re-visit our applicants from 2014
- Solicit participation from new blood in the general FAC sense → festcomm volunteer czar?
- Do we not properly recognize other organizational participants, e.g. camp leads?
 - Can we get this info from placement?
- We should email the list with individual suggestions and approve that list next meeting

Event Lead Search

Purpose: Checkin on status of 2016 event co-lead search. (5 minutes)

Jered to send out call for event leads, ask Tarn and Masha if they approve of suggestion and ask them to reach out to her personally.

MOOP Map Discussion

Purpose: Determine if further action must be taken to address MOOP map accuracy concerns. (15 minutes) (6:58)

- The intention of the MOOP map was unclear, and its public reception (with regard to perceived BoD involvement) was negative
- Provide feedback regarding MOOP map clarifications and delivery to community
- Update map before Afterburn report

Identify Missing Tasks

Purpose: Brainstorm missing activities in the off-months and recruit owners. (15 minutes) (7:05)

- Trailer contents to be distributed
- The Land Discussion
 - We should continue to have a plan, even if our activity on that plan is low
 - Land plan influences intention with revenue for 2016
 - Parking remains our greatest challenge with the current property (event-centric)
 - Other ~burns: discussion of this topic is happening, no others currently own
 - What do we want to do with our potential land?
 - Do our needs/wants demand that we purchase land?
 - Can we handle setup? yearly overhead?
 - How do we interact with the year-round community proximal to that land?
 - keep neighbors happy
 - local laws (e.g. gathering permit)
 - 2015 was a relatively easy year; keep this in mind with land needs
 - No natural disasters (flipside, other festivals)

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- None of our challenges from previous years
- What happened with Velir?
 - Velir connections changed hands
 - Velir's security policy changed
 - FAC's energy is redirected during summer/early fall
 - We should keep these in mind and expect that we need to maintain connections for 2 years to "settle in" to a space
 - Early 2015 might have been good, but Snowpocalypse happened
- What about Artisans Asylum etc?
 - Very small existing gallery space at AA
 - In e.g. Somerville, expense is already a difficulty and will get worse
 - This is in direct opposition to our goal to make the location accessible
 - Some discussion of Framingham space
- What aspects of our community are not well-supported by current models?
 - Hard to tell
- 15min mark
 - Can we come up with an objective for now?
 - Can we solicit the community?
 - Previous surveys
 - Active volunteers for gallery
 - How do we support the community?
 - Space/Land?
 - Encourage more art?
 - What about other land?
 - Vermont contact
 - NECTR land
 - What about the relationship with land caretakers (current: land owners)?
 - How do we direct our investment with the land?
 - How is this balanced with our community goals and growth?
 - What do we do with our current assets?
 - Trailer contents: support NECTR, FIGMENT, etc.
 - Ticketing system
 - Trail lights
 - Have rep (official or unofficial) maintaining assets during the event
 - Try to keep physical assets in the Northeast for logistical ease
 - 30 min mark

Other

Purpose: Free discussion of topics not included on agenda, primarily to identify for email discussion or next month's meeting. (15 minutes)

- We talked about additional board members above

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Next Meeting Date

Purpose: Determine next meeting date. (5 minutes)

- 13th of December