

**August 10, 2025, 7:00pm**

**Present:** Dan, Carly, Tristan, Jon, Max, Jered, Pete, Iva, Jack, Ollie

**Absent:** Omar

**Guests:** Aaron (Survey)

Link to meeting: <https://meet.google.com/yyw-pqbg-kzm>

## Agenda:

*(Don't add things here, this is auto-generated. Add them under "Topics" below)*

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## Approve Old Notes

 Public Copy of 2025-06-11 Board Meeting Minutes

## Previous Action Items

- **Completed** ▾ - Check in status with Kirk as LOL - Iva
- **Completed** ▾ - F&F tickets for Kirk - Jered
- **Completed** ▾ - Push on Rangers budget, pre-event meeting - Jered
- **Completed** ▾ - Board "office hours" - Jack & Omar

Pending actions list (may include items not discussed at meetings):

 Pending Board Actions

## Minutes vs Notes vs Transcripts

We've had varying levels of detail in our Meeting Minutes/Notes and should standardize on the content that is recorded – this isn't practical to be a transcript of meetings. We will continue to list discussion topics, outcomes, decisions, and votes, as well as plans for future actions. We do not expect notes to represent every individual position taken by each named person in conversation.

## Survey Report

- No big news on: demographics, key metrics.
- People okay with: population of firefly, vehicles on path, parking/exodus, minors.
- Response to medical contractor more mixed ( $\frac{1}{3}$  neg  $\frac{2}{3}$  pos) than last year (almost all pos)
- Everyone loves portos, only small number thought they were a nuisance
- Accessibility issues: survey indicates worse, free response not very helpful for what we can do differently
- New topics:
  - Diseases: overall incident percentages lower than expected
  - Ranger feedback: not a ton of feedback, some people suggest information hub
  - Cost vs. services: we aren't doing more than people are comfortable with, but status quo bias
  - Information from newbies to compile for future
  - Land use questions
    - By far the thing that most people want is woods (as long as it's mostly woods, people are okay)
    - Decreasing capacity is very unpopular
    - Cheaper land was popular
    - People don't care much about lake, water infra, trailer/restroom access, particular location.
- Positive feedback: approving of volunteering, expansion, portos
- Negative feedback: parking/nexus bottlenecks, medical issues

After review, will be published (post Burning Man).

## Event Recap

- Most issues caused by the 5 weeks of planning delay
  - Hopefully would have been ironed out if we'd had 2-3 more pre-planning meetings
  - Most issues happened in first 24-36 hours, due to new plans not being thoroughly communicated
    - Parking & GTFO changes not communicated with DPW

- New changes with Radios difficult to handle for first day-plus (Dox had health issue)
- Exodus remains major issue
  - Not sure how to solve without changing location
  - Issues & setup seemed similar to 2024
    - Slow going, traffic issues
    - 1550 take 5 days to get on the hill, and we try to get them off of it in 5 hours
  - There should be a secondary drop off point
  - Loaded up trucks driving to Nexus.. for people? For one or two bags? Why?
  - Steep hill to upper parking got torn up; people stopping on the hill which tear up the road. People were backing up the street
  - Need more parking volunteers at exodus.
  - Can we get fewer cars per camp on the hill, or the number of cars already ready to load up. Hard to solve problems with instruction and not infrastructure.
- RVs (and busses)
  - We had concerns before the event, and these were borne out by the event in terms of noise abuse and parking consumption. If we continue to allow these, we need to have very clear guidelines on what is allowed for accessibility reasons and what sort of equipment can be operated.

## Finance Committee

- Bounced checks?
  - Addressed - low funds due to timing of Ramp payments. Both checks still paid out after being returned
  - Stripe sweeps into savings, not checking, and Citizens won't auto-transfer.
  - Another reason to GTFO from Citizens
    - Next step to get off Citizens is to get together in-person with signatories
- Final payments
  - 419 - \$3171.60 - mailed 8/10
  - Triangle - \$150 - Paypaled 8/10
  - Laurelin - \$195 - check initiated today
- Committee Workload
  - Why is one person handling 90+% of the payments for the third year in a row (after bringing it up as an issue after each of the last two years)?
  - Who has payment power
  - Plan: get together with the finance committee and open a new account.
    - Jon and Ollie interested in joining
    - Responsibilities: SHOULD not focus on in-person work. Payments to people, ramp, taxes, quickbooks.

## 2026 Location and Event Options

### 📌 2025-2026 Location Search

- Project Leads
  - Tristan (and others)
- Site Requirements
  - Total size >>50 acres
  - >50% forested
  - Burn-friendly area
  - Parking for >1000 cars (10 acres)
  - Water? Power?
  - Existing trails/vehicle access to camping areas
- Existing outreach from participants
  - [participant]: Replied today, we'll see if they have resources - Tristan
  - [participant]: Need to meet with them to understand their offer - Jered
- Leads and stewards retreat event?
  - Leadership summit would be easy to repeat independently FWIW
- Ideas
  - Take out ad in Seven Days - Carly to investigate
  - Reach out to VT ICs groups - Dan
  - Research campgrounds we could buy out for the week - Tristan + others
  - Rent from Kirk's other neighbors, other parking nearby?
  - Research is there a [rentmyfarm.com](https://rentmyfarm.com) for large events?
    - <https://farmr.us/> (not actually what we want lol)\*
  - Reach out to Kirk again to discuss town forest, other neighbors, etc - Jered
  - Write an "introduction portfolio" draft - Jered
- Land search committee
  - Who will be on it?
  - Board, and long-time volunteers
  - Looking for other input from community members but not necessarily making them decision-makers
  - Clara LaFrance [The person who helped us find Laurelin] is interested in helping

Continuing discussion via email / Signal. Let's create a new mailing list so we can include non-board folks.

## Board Member Harassment / Internet Discourse

- When does it become an issue for people to slander individual board members?
  - How about the board as a whole?
  - When participants use ConComm to do it?
- Social media is a key factor in maintaining a functioning community in the way ours is structured

- Requires moderation
  - Find moderators
  - Create Specific Rules
  - Escalating Consequences (including Ticket Removal)
- Facebook Group is essentially an official communication medium for us, and it is managed by our Communications Committee. We should make this official, have CommComm take ownership, make it clear that the Code of Conduct applies, and take a stronger hand in moderation.
- Meta-topic: Event lead burnout problems – FestComm issue?

## Participant Issues

- [participant] - in progress
- [camp] - ball is in their court for making suggestions for consideration, data on what other events do
  - Ask NorthBeast to write up what they can and cannot do?
  - Clarify what people should do if participant wants to call an ambulance (even if Medical feels it is not medically necessary)
- [participant] - Iva to touch base
- [participant] - open case; with ConComm

## ConComm Outreach

- One of the new board members to schedule a meeting with Concomm
  - Max Alexander to send scheduling email

## Board Application

Asked [participant] to write out longer answers as these will be shared with Planning; will follow up in another week if we don't hear anything.

## New Action Items

- Find VT tax person before next year if we're in VT
- GTFO from Citizens Bank (Tristan + FinComm)
- Form land search committee
  - Reach out to Kirk about adjacent land Jered Floyd
- Create email list for land search group Jered Floyd

## Next Meeting

Sunday, September 14, 5:30p- in person