

**Playa del Fuego
Board of Directors
11/14/13 Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Dove Russo, Patty Simonton, Dave Diller, Buddy Kilpatrick, Ed Rosen, Oryx Gazella, Amy Stentzel-Jensen.

Absent: Mark Nyon, Mary Shaffer.

[Note: Minutes amended after approval to correct oversight of Mary Shaffer's appearance in both the Present and Absent lists. She confirms she was absent, as does an email that day. -dd]

The meeting was called to order at 7:08.

Minutes

- Discussion of minutes and what should be published – summary vs. point by point
 - o Minutes need to capture the essence of the meeting
 - o They do not need to be a “transcript” but should provide details on what was discussed and what the resulting action was
- Minutes of retreat approved. Dove Russo abstained because she did not attend the retreat.
- Discussion of October minutes. Approved as corrected; final vote of corrected copy to be approved on Trello

Update on the Council.

- There have been no Council Bootstrapping Team (CBT) meetings scheduled. The formation of the listserv took some time, and there hasn't been much engagement up to this point. Currently there are two listservs: One for the CBT and one for the Council once it is fully formed
- There is still some confusion among CBT members on exactly what the role of the Council will be, and a desire to ensure that nothing is being “forced” or “taken away” from Coordinators
- Clarification – the CBT will decide the role of the Council to ensure that duties that are already allocated are not taken away without good reason. The suggestions to the CBT so far are just that: suggestions, and can be changed, modified, ignored, adopted, etc.
- The Council is a way to ensure continuity, both between the different Coordinators, and as Coordinators step away from their roles. One goal is that members of the Council will commit to a specific time period to increase the continuity.
- The Council will also be looking at the “big picture” vs. individual “on the ground” work. It might be helpful to view it as an “director” or “event producer” for the event, but divided up among several members so that all the work doesn't fall to one person
- A number of current Coordinators have done a fantastic job of doing “oversight” and looking at the big picture; the idea is that the Council can help to divide up those duties so that no one is overwhelmed, and if one of the coordinators involved in that macro

level steps away, continuity will remain.

- Discussions need to take place immediately in order to meet the 11/30; Dove to email CBT to set up a time for a conference call

Face-to-Face Meeting

- Meeting will be around Philadelphia sometime in late January-March.
- Possibility of having a 2-3 day event, and have the newly formed Council join on the last day
- Amy will look into a venue and put out a Doodle poll.

More on Minutes

- Discussed timelines – what is reasonable to have minutes posted to the group? Needs to happen well before the next BOD meeting
- Can minutes be voted on using Trello or other web services?
 - o At this time, no per our by laws; may want to amend in the future
- Minutes to be emailed to the BOD no later than 2 weeks after each meeting for review
- Any changes to be discussed at meeting and then voted on
- Minutes to go up on website in a timely manner - Approximately 1 week.
- The BOD agreed to help the Secretary with details if he will get the minutes out quicker; secretary to email meeting “notes” to entire BOD after meeting.

Town Hall proposal

- Discussion of board holding online town hall meetings
- Virtual town hall for entire community – 1-2x year
- Virtual town hall for Coordinators – 1-2x year, possibly invite to last day of retreat or business meetings to replace a virtual meeting
- Question on obligation of BOD members to attend, length of time for meetings
 - o At this time it will not be a requirement for BOD members to attend Town Hall meetings; however, we should aim to have at least quorum at all Town Hall meetings. We can also set a time limit on the meetings (ie 1 or 2 hours) and be sure that those are followed
- Dove will look into technology for virtual Town Hall meetings.

Communication Strategies

- Discussion on “Q&A for the BOD” on the website – a section of the website where community members could post their questions to the BOD, and the BOD could post responses:
 - o Discussion on emailing responses in a newsletter
 - o Discussion of posting responses monthly right to the website
 - o Who would be responsible for answering and posting? Follow up with Evl regarding her role as “communication secretary” and see if she would be interested in this, or if there should be a team approach
- Discussion about answering board emails. Per 2009 Retreat, BOD members were supposed to respond within one week whether or not they had received an email
 - o Concern about volume – if you send an email and everyone sends “received,” and

then other members send an actual response, does everyone then need to respond “received” to the responses? Very complicated method

- o Decision to “tag” posts for priority, in the subject of the email. For example “PLEASE RESPOND IMMEDIATELY – Subject of email” or “FOR NEXT BOD MEETING – Subject of email” etc. No specific format was decided upon at this time; we will experiment to see what works.

Follow-up on Investments

- Discussion of risk, and investments: is there anyone who is 100% opposed to taking any risk, no matter how small?
- Consensus seems to be that we can take some risk beyond buying certificates of deposit or using low interest bank accounts.
- More research on investments will be done by the BOD.

Photography Policy

- Response to incident where a photographer who works for a paper took a photo of a participant at the event, with the permission of the participant, and gave that photo to his employer for publishing
- Can or should we do anything about photographs that appear in the press? Very little
 - o No actual “damage” done, so unclear of legal standing
- Can or should we do anything when a photographer violates a stated photography policy?
 - o Yes, as per the guidelines a photographer can be evicted or not invited back to the event
 - o Photographers should be aware that most/all events have photo policies and should have checked before having the photo published
 - o Serious breach of the communities trust
 - o We will reach out to the photographer to have a discussion with them regarding next steps; we would like the photographer to issue an apology to the community
 - o Oryx to draft email to photographer

After burn report

- After burn reports up on PONY; link sent, cross posted to Trello
- BOD – please read all reports and comment for next meeting
- Discussion of private purchase of fuel for effigy burn; unfortunately, as there are no receipts we cannot reimburse the individual though we would like to
 - o Will be issuing a THANK YOU to the individual who stepped up and purchased fuel to make our burn happen

Regional Status

- Our regional status with Burning Man needs to be renewed.
- Reviewed requirements for official status - all we need that we do not currently have in place are financials posted and an RC to vouch for us.
- Patty working on financials

- Will reach out to RC to remind them they need to “vouch” for PDF so that we can be listed on the Burning Man website - Ben used to do this

Pony Debt

- We advanced \$600 to have a pony effigy built, and the contractor did not produce the piece of art. He is not responding to emails. Community member input/contact for him?
- There is little we can do if he fails to pay other than turn it over to a collection agency. Time to investigate options! This is the first time this has happened and it was generally agreed that the artists we work with gladly fulfill their contracts. We’re disinclined to let people not fulfill their contractual obligations and steal from the community.

Next call

Scheduled for December 19.

Adjourned at 9:28 PM.