

## PDF Planning Committee Meeting Agenda

**Date: Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 12 PM**

**Purpose of meeting: Begin planning for Spring Burn**

**Agenda summary: Review submitted After Burn reports; new business discussions and proposals; new budget proposals; and planning cycle reminders**

**Call-in information: 1-712-432-3100, code is 833217**

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**Meeting called to order at 12:03 p.m.**

### **Roll call:**

Miss Fidget (leading meeting)  
Owsla (PC coord)  
Jim (Purchasing coord)  
Chef Phil (Parking co-coord)  
2E (BOD)  
Diana Smiles (Participation Station coord-in-training)  
Gabe Brutal (Parking co-coord in training)  
Rev Dave (Burning Arts co-coord)  
Yeti (DPW coord)  
Smartie Martie (Gate coord)  
Peña (Sound coord)  
Beauty  
Scott (Stage coord)

### **First Order of Business – After Burn reports**

1) DPW – submitted by Yeti, DPW coord

The Good \*

Early Entry/Arrival Setup went well. Volunteers arrived on time, structures and the rest were assembled on time. During take down each dept readied itself, for take down and put away, efficiently and in a timely manner. Straw was useful where ever it was applied.

The Bad \*

There was low turnout of willing and able volunteers for take down. Take down of some structures did not begin in earnest until late in the afternoon. Everything was done, and when getting done did not take super-long, its just got started moving in earnest too late in the day

The Ugly \*

The shed doors need to be replaced. The shed is nearly completely filled. The lack of open space makes maneuvering inside of it more difficult. If it is not packed precisely, then there is not enough room.

Additional Notes (ideas for improvement / etc)

We need more willing and able core volunteers for take down. Use reserve tickets to encourage core volunteers for take down. We need a bigger/better storage solution. Willing, and able, individuals may follow along with the dpwcoord, during all of the times that dpwcoord is fulfilling his onsite duties, to gain a holistic and comprehensive understanding of the process from the beginning to the end.

2) Fire Conclave – submitted by Pena, Burning Arts co-coord  
good: There was a lot of different fire props used and a good number of [performers.no](http://performers.no) one got hurt.

Bad- the muddy ground made it difficult to walk around the pony and made the circle smaller

ugly:

-skully the conclave coordinator was unable to make it to the burn and was unable to call someone to let them know he was not able to make it for the second time.

-the rain made it hard for the props to light.

-changes

for skully to be removed from position and replaced with Sarah groove

3) Parking – submitted by 2E, Parking co-coord; and Sam Buca

Parking 1.0 (Toohey's submittal)

The Good

Rows were beautiful. Greeters and PS had our back we were always fully staffed. Teams formed to get people out of the mud. Random help from the community. Wonderful.

The Bad

The gates were not manned during off hours allowing cars to come in during only carry out. Over half the cars got stuck in the mud. There was no traffic management so I stepped in personally and appointed people to run the traffic jams. Normally these shifts are not needed but we had a hurricane mud burn. The parking passes were misplaced. Vets were not sufficient security in the morning - people were driving through. Theme Camps should be prepared to carry in carry out for potential future burns.

### The Ugly

Our current grounds are not sufficient to handle our rvs and parking in general. That is my professional opinion.

### Parking 2.0 (sam buca's submittal)

#### The Good

The parking team had really good chemistry and works extremely well together. Our volunteers for the most part showed up for their shifts, and when we were low staffed we worked well with other departments to fill shifts. Our stakes and flags were set up well enough so that our volunteers could park people in close together without hitting each other. All RVs, vans, and other onsite parking were successfully directed their designated parking areas without any overflow. And so far as I know, there was very little damages to cars reported due to people loosing control in the mud. No person (that I know of) was injured while parking :) Everyone who got stuck in the mud was (eventually) able to get out.

#### The Bad

Minimal damage to some cars, but I think most of it was due to people damaging their own cars through the mud, not a lot of car-on-car damage. Some volunteers were not necessarily in the right head space to direct people and let them know parking and load in/load out practices, or lack there of. Temporary load in parking ended up turning into permanent parking because people never came back to move their cars.

### The Ugly

The mud. Stuck cars. Stuck tow trucks. General stuckyness and more mud than I've ever had the privilege to see in my life.

### 4) Rangers – submitted by Mythic, Ranger co-coord.

#### The Good

Rangers continued to serve the PDF community in their roles as observers, resources, and mediators. The Channel 1 teams consisting of MASH, Rangers, and Sanctuary worked well together to ensure the safety and well-being of PDF participants.

In continued efforts of increasing accountability and transparency, Rangers continue to develop their methods of tracking inventory as well as individual performance.

#### The Bad

Rodents once again infiltrated out chests, ruining our shade tarps and using much of our materials for nesting materials. This delayed set up so that items could be disinfected to make them safe.

Two participants required medical extraction; while unfortunate, MASH and Rangers worked well together to ensure the safety of all those concerned

and together effected as efficient of an extraction as possible.

Overnight shifts need more volunteers.

The Ugly

Ranger HQ continues to suffer from significant drainage issues, although efforts to trench the area did help somewhat. Rodent infiltration of items stored onsite resulted in damage of shade tarps and delay of set up.

5) Sanctuary – submitted by Jen Dublin, Sanctuary coord

The Good

We had great volunteer signup and turnout, building up some amazing "regulars" who have been able to help train others as well. I think we are gaining more name recognition and attention.

The Bad

We are running out of room in our structure for participants and volunteers to move around. The structure itself is complicated to put up and a big thank you to yeti and Dan laz for figuring that out and doing the hard work.

The Ugly

I am still unhappy with Sanctuary's placement. It is too loud next to the stage to have meaningful conversations and is agitating to sanctuary participants.

6) Theme Camps – submitted by Kathrine, Theme Camp co-coord

The Good

Yes, it was all good! We successfully placed 35 fabulous Theme Camps (including 8 Sound Camps) and 12 fantastic pieces of art. Weather was favorable for setup – 11am to 3:30pm (ish) on Thursday. Our five volunteers were absolutely exceptional! Huge thanks!

Leading up to this burn, the Vets removed the wooden road into the back field. They also built up some swampy parts of the back field with clay/dirt (Fields 5 & 6 South). These changes to the land, along with dry conditions in the weeks leading up to the Burn, allowed for a reasonably clean marking off of the complete backfield loop with cross streets.

The Bad

There are certain areas of the back field where dirt was added to build up the ground, but it wasn't completely spread out. I would love to these areas leveled out before the next Burn. One specific area is the buggy mountain of dirt and decaying hay between Fields 4 & 5 (spot 4c on the Fall 2016 map). Another area is the South side of the back field loop where dirt was added before this Burn.

The Vets piled lots more mounds of dirt/gravel along the back field North fence, extending their "shooting range." This is over 100 feet along the main footpath

that is unusable to us.

One Theme Camp pulled out of their assigned placement on Thursday. We talked onsite and seem to be on the same page moving forward, which is great. However, if a Theme Camp is bailing on their reserved spot as a trend, this is problematic. It creates holes in the layout and takes a prime spot away from another Theme Camp. If your placement significantly restricts your ability to do whatever it is you do as a Theme Camp, please reach out to [themecamps@playadelfuego.org](mailto:themecamps@playadelfuego.org) ASAP after the map is published (1 week before the Burn). Let's talk about it before the event!

The Ugly - No Ugly.

Additional:

We've gotten feedback from multiple Theme Camps that the South side of the back field is consistently swampy and/or gets too little foot traffic. We'll continue to tweak the layout with this feedback in mind.

Constructive feedback from the community is welcome and valued! Please email [themecamps@playadelfuego.org](mailto:themecamps@playadelfuego.org) with your comments, questions, concerns, and commendations.

7) Stage – submitted by Scott Frias, Stage coord

- The Good:
  - Stage ran like a clock for the entire event. Good participation from the community; no equipment malfunctions during the event and we drastically improved the live improvisational aspects of the stages use, which will continue to increase in the spring. All equipment rented was returned with no damage.
- The Bad: None really. Could use more permanent equipment.
- The Ugly:
  - Just lost all the paperwork that I JUST found again, hence the extra long delay in submitting this report.
- Additional Notes:

I am going to instantiate an open entry house band in order to prove the point that music is generative and in a crowd of burners with particularly great power.

8) Sound – submitted by Pena, Sound co-coord.

- Executive summary: Mostly positive with a few blips to iron out.

The Good (some copy/paste from last time, with embellishment)

- Zero neighbor complaints or police reports again
- Nearly everyone remained well within levels the entire weekend. DJs were happy to do whatever was necessary to get in levels when asked.
- Few complaints made it to my radio, and all were resolved amicably. Always remember, you can always ask (nicely) too, it's the neighborly thing to do!
- On Saturday and Sunday, all camps had subs off before even starting up again after the burns. Awesome.
- No real issues from the front or back fields.

The Bad:

.A radio was lost

.had to shut down a sound camp friday night b/c after 5 times, the sound levels keep being turned up after levels were set.

.The rain

The ugly:

.not enough volunteers

9) Purchasing – submitted by Mr. B, Purchasing coord.

The purchasing process went much smoother this burn with the new Google based Purchasing Spreadsheet. Folks placed items they wanted along with URL links to Amazon or other sites and I made purchases and had shipped to desired locations. Spreadsheet helped a lot and may make a few tweaks to it prior to the next burn to allow for notes, updates, etc.

Only big issue was groups ordering radios when we discovered they were on national backorder with a 6-8 week delivery time frame (about four weeks after the burn) so will have to be more on top of this earlier in the process next time.

There seems to be a lot of money spent on things that may or may not be being used for more than one burn. I will look at orders, etc over the winter and propose my thoughts in early Feb or March.

Golf carts were great in the mud and after removing a ton of mud off of them late on Monday night they were good as new. Water and other items all worked out as planned and very few issues related to purchasing this burn.

*\*Still missing After Burn reports from the following departments: NONE! :D*

**No updates on After Burn reports.**

**Second Order of Business – Old business discussions and proposals**

1) Handling radios between burns – submitted by Rev. Dave (Nov. 2016)

- Any follow up to last meeting's discussion?

Need a system for accounting for the radios after the burn. Suggestion to take pictures of serial numbers and send to Patty. Also a suggestion to mail them back in. Mailing could get expensive. Patty needs an inventory of PDF assets. If the radios are on site on Wednesday, maybe this isn't an issue. Move discussion to the PONY.

### **Third Order of Business – New business discussions and proposals**

1) Discussion item - Bring Public Transit to PDF (submitted by Ms. Fidget)

Wouldn't it be awesome if there was a shiny loud shuttle that ran a pre-determined loop at PDF?

This shiny bright loud shuttle would stop at marked stops and be equally available to everyone at PDF. It would provide much needed transport assistance while building community spirit. Replacing multiple lower volume vehicles with fewer higher volume vehicles would lessen the events environmental impact, possibly reducing total fuel consumption and insurance cost. Swapping several drab quasi official/quasi personal carts for a shiny bright loud shuttle of sharing would help increase PDF's WOW factor immensely. Creating a mother jumper of a communal art car is one of the few high impact burnerific improvements to be made at Firebase Lloyd.

The shuttle could be partially funded by reducing the total number of carts rented. Some carts are vital for event safety. But not all.

The rented shuttle could be many things. A groovy thing firemen know about, flatbed w/ rope lights and sound rig, a few beefy carts w/ small trailers, something else. Blinging it could be a recurring art grant project or the most frivolous thing DPW does.

I've thought of other details but brevity yo.

Alfred had a similar proposal to have an extra golf cart to help shuttle people in/out. What is the maximum weight for hauling stuff on the golf carts? Jim will find out by next meeting.

2) Proposal/discussion item - Back Gate Greeter cart proposal, submitted by Alfred

I would like 1 golf cart for Greeters to be used to help with transportation of participants and their gear during Carry In/Carry Out and night time arrivals when it may be a great idea for cars to drive in. This would supplement the Vet's tractor, or replace it if it is not working like last time. This would help Back Field campers tremendously where, I believe, most of our participants reside for the weekend. I feel that this would also boost morale for both participants receiving and volunteers dispersing such Carry In information.

If (ha ha, when) back field conditions are undesirable, the cart would make stops at designated points (probably along Baconne) to reduce the chance of getting stuck.

Strictly stealing the numbers off the Ranger budget, this would add \$350 to the Back Gate Greeter budget.

I would love to hear feedback on this.

I also now see a discussion point for a playa transit bus which, in my opinion, would replace this idea if approved.

Diana appreciates any help hauling people. Would a golf cart get stuck in the mud? Maybe a tractor? Transformus uses Gators. United Rentals will rent UTVs for about \$50 more than the golf carts, but that possibly does not include delivery. Some difficulty getting deliveries to us because of remote location. Jim will get some more information for next meeting.

3) Proposal – Closing the Gates Earlier, submitted by Smartie Martie

For future PDF's I am suggesting to officially close the Gates at Midnight on Thursday and Friday evenings. Also to officially closed the Gates Saturday night and Sunday night at 6:00 PM. We seem to always be scrambling for last minute volunteers for these times. I would like the BOD to speak with the Vets about increasing the total number of extra hours, which is 16 hours per burn at 16.00 per hour, total expense for PDF 256.00. Its not going to break the PDF bank

We would need confirmation from The Vets if they are willing to take on the extra hours.

We would need to notify the Web Team for adjustments to the volunteer schedule to reflect any changes for the new Gate hours.

Communication to the community of the following methods about the changes of the New Gate Hours: web site announcement, notices during ticket sales, posts on FB, notices on the BPE, emails sent out to volunteers by department coordinators, new hours on the ticket.



Have gates close earlier on Thursday and Friday (midnight), and officially at 6pm on Saturday and Sunday. Would cost \$256 more per burn; \$512 per year. This is due to lack of volunteers. There would be a hard "no" to allowing people in after gates close, except for burn night.

#### 4) Proposal – (More) Reserve tickets for volunteers, submitted by Smartie Martie

Increasing the ticket cap with volunteer reserved tickets for general volunteers, because every volunteer is important to running the event. Several community members have suggested this in the past and it has been shot down several times. Its time to make this a reality. Some departments do not have this problem, for Gate departments, such as Greeters, Ticketing and Parking we do....

Yes, this suggestion will create some more work for some coordinators and BOD, it will also alleviate work and stress of coordinators during the event, because we will hopefully have a full or almost full staff of volunteers before the event starts. I think we would have more slots filled before the event due to the carrot of a reserved ticket. Every burn the volunteer pool is different, it always changes and inconsistent, one burn we have a great volunteerism, then the next burn poor volunteerism.

A participant volunteers for 6 hours, either 2 three hour shift lead shifts or 3 two hour volunteer shifts.

The Front and Back gate already have a volunteer shift log book to record volunteer attendance for his or her volunteer shifts.

The volunteer shift logs books can be updated to record additional information such as email address and have two people to sign off for completed shift, such as shift lead, Coordinators and Assistant Coordinator, or G.O.D.'s.

After the event, coordinators would record the reserved volunteer ticket list into a google spreadsheet for his or her department for the following burn. The reserved ticket would be forwarded to the current BOD member responsible for the reserved tickets for the following burn.

Coordinators would send emails out to the volunteers who received the reserved to the following burn or the burn the participant chooses to attend.

During the reserved ticket sales volunteers would be able to purchase a reserved ticket to the burn.

Communication to our community about the new reserved ticket for volunteer shifts are the following: web site announcement, notices during ticket sales, posts on FB, notices on the BPE, emails sent out to volunteers by department coordinators.

Need BOD input as to whether we would increase the ticket cap or if these tickets would come from the general pool. Need details on how many tickets this would entail. Maximum amount of reserve tickets currently is 13 per department. Further discussion should be moved to the PONY. 2E will take the proposal to the next board meeting.

5) Proposal – B.M. Reserve tickets for coordinators, submitted by Smartie Martie  
A reserved ticket for Coordinators to Burning Man

PDF should take idea to BM and have reserve tickets designated for coordinators from regional burns. Maybe we could explore coordinators taking part in BM leadership conferences. Increased cross-pollination of regionals with BM would have a positive impact.

#### **Fourth Order of Business – Budget proposals**

1) Rangers - \$980 – submitted by Mythic

##### **Printing for burn: \$75.00**

Consent Posters

\$75.00 = 30 x \$2.50

##### **Consumables: \$85.00**

Juice, snacks \$35.00

Hot/cold H2O bubbler & 2 x 5-gallon bottles \$50.00

##### **Ranger Cart: \$350 00**

Golf cart rental and delivery \$325.00

Extra gas for gold cart \$25.00

##### **Uniforms \$470.00**

PDF Ranger Uniform Patches \$470.00 = 50\* x \$9.38

Jim will need to verify golf cart and water cooler rates. Will send update to coord list before next PC meeting.

#### **Fifth Order of Business – Announcements and reminders**

1) Upcoming meeting schedule

- Saturday February 4 (*note this is the 1st weekend of the month and not the 2nd!*)
- Sunday March 12
- Saturday April 8 **OR** Sunday April 9; depends on if anyone else has stepped up to be PC coord or can for this meeting date (i.e., Owsla cannot do the 8<sup>th</sup>)

Announcements from the board brought by 2E:

The board has been restructuring. A subcommittee has been created with 2E, Batnips and Damian. They will be the liaisons to the coordinators, so the liaison for some departments will be changing. This process is being streamlined and more information will be forthcoming.

Ben Sarsgard will be stepping down, which will open a new board position. Get your nominations in, if you're interested. Ben will still be doing ticketing.

**Meeting closed at 12:55 p.m.**