

OCTOBER 17 2022 BOD MEETING MINUTES

Zoom meeting

Current Board members: Karnak, Ursula, m4, Smiles, Miles, Epic, David, Wax, Bucky, Aye, Lotus, Hatter, Cramer - 13 people

Attendance: Ursula, Smiles, Whatever, Aye, Hatter, Lotus, Dave, Wax, Karnak aka Peanut Jr, Miles, Bucky, M4
Quorum - 7 people

To approve:

- **Sept 18, 2022 : Meeting Minutes:**
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cvW71sWaf3HIKrB0942C3Jkc33_skH66dXtEWGUQUck/edit
- **Sept 27 2022 aux meeting**
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xk1VF-cuUI9Bu15RFKFygAAk-JHNtH9nhaGh_PGA--0/edit
- Minutes approved unanimously (Bucky & M4 not present)

Agenda

- Welcome and Check-ins
- Review and Vote on September Minutes
- New Business
- Old Business

NEW BUSINESS:

- Upcoming BOD Calls
 - Sunday Nov 13, 6pm
 - Sunday December 11, 6pm
 - Retreat Jan 13-16
- Regional Contacts
 - <https://regionals.burningman.org/becoming-a-regional-contact/>
 - Who wants to do it? Dave, Kelly, Aye
 - talked with JenR (Meta RC), sent email.
 - Current RCs:
 - <https://regionals.burningman.org/regionals/north-america/washington-dc/>
 - DC: Spacious Duane, JR Nexus Russ, Charles Planck

OLD BUSINESS (Includes outstanding items from previous meetings):

- Land Purchase -
 - Next Meeting
 - Every second Tuesday at 7 pm. Next: September 20, 8 PM, then October 11 at 7pm - Zoom 750 660 4772
 - Whatever, Hatter, interested in being added
 - Need to keep community involved
 - Need to get a business plan before we pull the trigger
 - Model
 - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BK647S2Vvj17dQSAF2t53oBCrQ7R-HVj/edit#gid=1802353357>
 - Need to consider if we cross out of our Not for Profit space into the profit world, and how that affects our IRS filings.
 - Connect with Realtors who do land purchase in our areas of interest (WV, SE & Central PA, NW MD). Met with Realtor Kim Markle in South Central PA in June
 - No retainer, no upfront charges, exclusive right to represent us in that region
 - Need an accurate current account value (=85% of FSA investment)
 - Currently we spend ~\$X on land rent per year
 - Suggest get professional property management if/when we have our own land.
 - More property available recently than in the past few months
 - Could consider clearing wooded property
 - Added risk - need to contract additional services
 - Currently focusing on land with an already cleared section, or ideally “reclaimed” land like the PDF site
 - There are some promising wooded sites in Delmarva peninsula
 - Have discussed in the past having the appropriate paperwork ready to go if promising land comes available
 - Would need a “Statement of Authority” that someone from the Land Search Committee has board’s authority to enter into a contract on a piece of land
 - Would ideally call a full board meeting to review a piece of land before getting a contract in place
 - Board Resolution to be presented in Nov so we can move quickly towards purchase
 - 3 personal panel,
 - New board member for continuity
 - Earnest money deposit will likely be surrendered
- Finance and Governance
 - FSA call rescheduled to 9/8 3:30pm

- Account value FSA: \$538,832 Delta -\$3599 or -0.7% from last month (S&P down about -5.6% over that time.)
 - Breakdown
 - 85% land
 - 5% CACE
 - 5% rainy day
 - 5% events & BOD discretion
 - proposing breaking funds up in FSA account
 - Could invest funds differently depending on purpose of the fund
 - Meeting with FSA rep November 8th, 3pm
- Bylaw review
 - writeup of changes for the bylaws
 - found a markup that has never been voted on that covers almost all of current concerns
 - Would be better to work through Feb 2019 draft and go over them at the next Gov & Finance meeting, then bring them to the full board meeting
 - look into what if anything needs to be submitted to state of MD
- Current focus on filings, afterburns
 - 2021 Filing filed! Yay us
 - PDF afterburn still waiting on Financials
 - Need \$1000 authorization to retain a WV lawyer to review insurance approved in the SEPT BOD meeting.
 - cast a wide net: don't focus on a specific insurance policy. Make sure Event and Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance is broad enough to hold us harmless
 - put pen to paper and list out questions we have about our coverage both for participants and BoD insurance
 - Propose \$1000 moved to a PA lawyer.
 - found a lawyer who could consult on our legal questions - Michelle P
 - Could also try to strengthen the waiver, but the waiver is also not generally legally binding
- Other committee actions
 - Need to Add Cramer as a check signer for Firepony
 - Look into how to create a shared pool of check recipients for Wells Fargo
 - Schedule next meeting - tbd
 - Schedule FSA meeting 9/8 3:30PM
- Board commitments letters .
 - Will become part of annual meeting in January
- Annual Reports
 - 2019 Annual report in queue after 2021 and PDF 2022 afterburn

- 2021 Annual report tbd
- Still need a Bylaw mtg - Dave to take lead on Bylaw revamp/reconciliation
 - *Note (May 2017): New board members are recruited throughout the year as needed.*
 - *Note (May 2017): As of July 2016, term limits for directors and officers were agreed upon, and are described in more detail in https://docs.google.com/document/d/150ErsUSOCM_vAqsLkmzaDGNLX9ogNZO8/edit*
- Event Planning - Constellation
 - Tickets:
 - Ticket cap: 850
 - Sold: 773
 - Redeemed: 626
 - Budget
 - Final numbers pending
 - Surveys sent
 - Census
 - Illness
 - Afterburns
 - pending
 - CONDUCT ISSUES (see conduct committee section)
 - 2023 Land search
 - Should line up a land visit to the TRA Campground
 - Consider re-starting the Tuesday (or every other) BoD/Prod meetings
 - Still going back and forth with wristband folks
 - If clasp won't be improved, will need a new vendor
 - All BoD purchases are getting made on debit, makes it hard to dispute charges with a vendor - should pursue credit card
 - Debit card is VISA branded, should afford us the same rights
 - Should consider disputing charge with VISA
 - Art Cart Insurance
 - Where were they?
 - Portapotty trucks parking on site next to camping was not ideal
 - Two folks lined up to take over participation
 - Virtual Recruitment thing
 - Thursday Oct 27th, 6pm
 - Saturday Oct 29th, 11am
 - New Producers
 - Potential candidates
 - Restructure
 - Desire to fill organization from the bottom up, document process

- Fear is that recruiting from the bottom up may leave the top empty, may still want a single wrangler
 - BoD shouldn't fill this role, but maybe better BoD fill this role than sphere lead
 - Constellation needs a clear definition of roles BOD/Coord, but tend to violate it because of BoD being coords
 - BOD has both total latitude to change how Constellation runs (longevity of event)
- Conduct Committee
 - Urgency on Constellation Issues
 - Working on a draft initial contact email
 - Who is on conduct@firepony.org email group?
 - 9 total cases, 1 stalled that needs to be retired
 - One new case from Constellation
- Event Planning - PDF -
 - Confirm BOD contacts:Hatter, Bucky. Done. Smiles will still engage/advise.
 - In the Afterburn Phase
 - Draft afterburn here
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hTs3Q_MYNq2icMsui31dLFTrgzBuioOwCyLRFvYVHEU/edit#
 - Still waiting on Financials. Will publish without the afterburn reports missing from some departments.
 - Key BOD Takeaways/Action items
 - Need to focus support on Rangers, Sanctuary, Gate, DPW
 - Are people who fill the form being contacted? Energy is great right now, it's a fine time to recruit.
 - Folks diverted to Constellation when possible
 - Insurance - check D&O coverage
 - <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1pOLi7ErkfcPop3xnXpimNvvv2pQi8Jmg>
 - PC wants to take a fresh look at policies
 - Next PC Calls
 - Nov 6 @7 (Sunday)
 - meeting for PDF 2023 timeline, upping art grant open date
 - WIP Not yet scheduled

PHILLY BURNER MEETUP!

Are you post-decompression
and want to feel listless again?
Do you miss shenanigans with
your Philly-area burner friends?

Did you have so much fun at
PDF and Constellation that you
want to talk to leadership about
joining the planning committee
for 2023?

Saturday, November 5th
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
New Deck Tavern
3408 Sansom Street



- Community Art and Civic Engagement
 - CACE is the umbrella for all “non-event” community engagement
 - NOV 5th Philly-area event hosted by FPCS/PDF
 - Baltimore has a monthly brunch thing? Picnics?
 - DC Happy hours has started again, run by ?
 - DC RC runs burner happy hours intermittently. Used to be run by a city planning coordinator
 - Community Grant Program
 - 2023 - New Interest from Community for MALC and CACE 2023 cycle
 - New Board Member to Partner with them?
 - Aye, Kelly are interested
 - Ursula interested as well
 - <https://firepony.org/malc2018/>
 - Interested in holding MALC again in DC/Baltimore area
 - FPCS doesn't “own” MALC, but do fiscally sponsor it.
 - 2022 grant program on hiatus due to staffing
 - 2021 Grants: Ursula to connect with artist with new deadline for report out.
 - RIDE FirePony: Radical Inclusion Diversity & Equity
 - Action items
 - RIDE survey sent to Constellation and Board .9.17.22
 - Awaiting new BOD member involvement

- OnTap - Analyze PDF Survey results
- Connections Committee
 - firepony.org/volunteer needs updating / revamp to simplify
 - WIP
 - Next Burner Banter Hour - 3rd Wednesday of every month
 - A few regulars :-)
 - Next meeting Wednesday Oct 19, Nov 16
 - Zoom ID 750 660 4772
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- Technology Committee
 - Everything will be shutdown 6/7 to stop any potential AWS bleed
 - Got charged \$300
 - Used to be less because of a grant from TechSoup
 - <https://www.techsoup.org/>
 - Zoom account migration in progress
 - Site technology infrastructure:
 - Need a community member to step up to oversee/maintain site tech
 - New Ticket System Status
 - Lot of negative feedback on CB22 ticket process
 - Hard to explain succinctly
 - Still hard to figure out waivers, transfers
 - Some positive feedback too
 - don't have to wait around
 - Rounds were long because system was manual
 - Having more, faster rounds could ramp energy up
 - M4 is ready to transfer Google controls to Hatter, Ticketing to Wax
 - Ticketing has to be a close hold because of hour coupled together it is with money, paypal, etc
 - Need to get some non-board folks brought in with slightly lower access level than admin level
 - promises a hot new ticketing system ready for PDF
 - Want a year-round development team dedicated to ticket system
 - Used year round: MALC, PDF, CB
 - Would need QA, testers, artists, devs, etc
 - Want a dedicated project manager
- Ranger Council Update -
 - Last mtg 6/7
 - Need to decide a direction and culture. Regional?
 - Consistent plan on how we Ranger at FP burns
 - Recruitment across the region - help from Participation Station (PDF)

- shadowed some BRC Rangers to understand what rangering looks like at the big one
 - Half of what happens out there we don't need for locals
 - Lotus is a BRC ranger, David rangered this year in BRC as well
 - sort out what happens at the Board level with rangers, what aspects of both burns can be left to the leads of those burns
 - Constellation 2022 Ranger report
 - Pink light camps worked well
- Safety Committee -
 - Hiatus
 - Nothing new to report
- Communications
 - "What does the BOD do" elevator pitch
 - Who wants to help craft this?
 - Currently on the board page of the website "As with any nonprofit oversight body, the function of the Board is to set policy and direction for the organization which are consistent with federal, state, and local laws, and to see that these policies are implemented and that all legal responsibilities are met."
 - New board members: need paragraph and photo for website
 - Need this from new board members & Dave Wilkes
 - Website updated with info from newsletter
 - Revisit / clean up advisory team?
 - What is the role of the advisory board
 - Thus far we've only reached out to folks for specific info
 - Could also extend Ride survey to the Advisory Board
 - Wax has been fired from the Advisory board
 - Almost exclusively former board members, has also included folks like Wax with valuable knowledge to contribute but not enough bandwidth to join the BoD
 - [Board of Directors | FirePony Creative Society](#)
 - Next Newsletter (s):
 - Constellation Newsletters
 - Smiles - need to walk Hatter through Mailchimp
 - Constellation website cleanup
 - Want conduct link on all three websites (PDF, CB, FPCS)
- BoD Flag/Swag/Etc
 - STAMP: Have a design, no physical artifact. Who wants to chase down getting the stamp made?
 - [PDF corporate seal.pdf](#)

- BIZ CARDS for Vendors?
- Anything Else
 - MALC/ GLC
 - Ursula talking to community members about MALC
 - Karnak wants to send Aye to GLC
 - Calendar and Communications
 - CB Recruiting Thursday Oct 27 6pm and Saturday Oct 29 11am
 - CACE MEETING - MALC setting up mtg
 - PDF Happy Hour Nov 5
 - PC Call
 - Nov 6 @7 (Sunday)
 - Land Committee - 2nd tuesday 7pm
 - FIN & GOV Committee -- tbd
 - Burner Banter - 3rd Wednesday @ 7
 - Oct 19
 - FP Newsletter - none planned
 - BPE Newsletter - none planned
 - Shooting Star - complete
 - Ranger Committee Mtg - On hiatus
 - Technology Mtg -
 - FP RIDE - low interest at PDF, on hiatus, want to gauge interest by new board members
 - Conduct

Actions

- Miles, David - Meet to list questions for a lawyer about insurance coverage
- Miles, Ursula - Pursue a corporate credit card
- Cramer, Aye - Follow up with CB producers on what happened with art carts
- Cramer, Aye - Set up site visit with TRA folks
- M4, Hatter - work on Google handoff
- M4, Wax - meet to start ticket handoff
- Wax - schedule Ranger/Safety meeting, tag up with Lotus
- Smiles, Hatter - walk through mail chimp

Meeting Adjourned at: 19:56

Committee assignments:

- Governance and Finance: Ursula, Miles, David, Cramer
- Land Purchase: David, Miles, Bucky

- Event Management: Constellation: Miles. karnak. Cramer, Aye
- Event Management: Playa del Fuego: Smiles, karnak, Hatter
- **CACE/ Art grants: Wax, Lotus**
- CACE/ Ride: Smiles, Aye
- CACE / Community Connections: Smiles, Ursula
- CACE/ MALC : Aye?, Lotus
- Conduct: Smiles, Aye, Bucky. Lotus
- Safety / Overall: Epic
- **Safety/ Ranger Council: Epic, Wax, Lotus**
- IT and Tech: m4, karnak, Wax, Bucky, Hatter
- Communications: Smiles, Hatter