

Minutes from concom meeting, 1/12/20, at Round Table Pizza at 10070 SW Barbur Blvd

Action items, or points of emphasis, are indicated by *****.

Attending in person:

John Lorenz, Ruth Sachter, Patty Wells, Rachel Robinson (~1:25), Linda Pilcher, Sean Wells, Dan Reitman, Linnea Thompson, Ann Ezell (~1:25), Alistair Walker, Rick Lindsley

Attending remotely: nobody.

Meeting started at 1:10pm

Chair remarks – it's early, but we need to staff up to avoid problems later. That's on the chairs of course, but everyone is encouraged to keep their eyes and ears open for good staff. Patty mentioned the Willamette Weekk Volunteer Guide as a resource, trying to get new blood from new places. She suggested we include a description of OSFCI and the work that OSFCI does to give volunteers a better idea of why it would be attractive. It was mentioned that arisa.org has a good writeup (<https://arisa.org/Volunteer>).

Dan and Linnea gave a quick review of their org chart. While there are still many openings, they identified some key efforts:

treasurer – working with the Board

hotel – with the hotel in renovation, we need to track their progress closely

teen contests and outreach – this needs to get started very soon

vice chair of personnel – a high level manager, not just a volunteer coordinator

PR – there is a possible candidate for this position

Photo policy review – not finished yet

Is the policy OSFCI's or Orycon's? The latter, but the Board will want to review any changes.

***** Linnea will ask previous chairs for a list of previous photographers.

In response to a question, Linnea said the current policy is viewed as unfriendly and a bit authoritarian. At least one potential GoH had expressed concern about it.

Alistair commented that the photo policy at Kumoricon is very situational.

Linnea remarked that we are trying to accommodate various levels of concern: “never take a photo with me in it anywhere”, “i don't care”, and “don't take a photo of ME without my consent”. The percentage of people expressing concern is small, and advice from those in attendance was to match the effort to the concern.

Departments

Registration – Robert - no report

Dealers – Scott - no report

but provided later by email: on track, no issues.

Programming – Rachel - still getting email together for panel suggestions

Alistair suggested some sensitivity training for panelists
moderators may be excellent choices for counting attendance

Hospitality – Rozalinda Nelson – new and eager

Budget Analysis – Rick -In the absence of a treasurer, tried to find trends and lessons from last five Orycons to guide the chairs. Main conclusion is: it's usually not the small stuff that will do you in. Fiscal danger is your big stuff (pubs, hotel, GoHs, hospitality) being out of proportion to your attendance.

Creation Station (by email) – Ellen - on track

Rick is collecting department deadlines so that they may be widely publicized at least among the concom.

Patty is working with Linda on an OSFCI description that includes a description of the Endeavour Award, the Sue Petrey Scholarship, Orycon, Gamestorm, the Clayton Fund, and how to volunteer.

**** Patty or Linda to provide another update at next meeting.

Patty observed that there was only one party at Orycon this year, and that contributed to the lack of, well, sociability, for want of a better term. Parties take the pressure off of hospitality, keep people in one area, and create buzz all weekend. It is much easier to throw parties in Oregon than in Washington, and we should be playing that up. Encourage publishers and authors to have release parties. What if Orycon partly subsidized the first *N* parties to register this year?

Ruth reported, with no small amount of joy, that the Portland Book Party is the weekend before Orycon this year. Not only does that remove competition, it may provide a terrific opportunity to advertise.

A discussion of teen contests ensued, and how they might also be subsidized to bring in more young adults. No conclusions were reached, other than the effort could only help.

That led to a brief discussion of how at age 12, all “young adults” must pay adult rates. A young adult or student rate was briefly discussed, but no conclusions or action items were produced.

Another idea that arose from that discussion was: could we get corporate sponsorship for academic (high school) programs?

****Patty & Sean offered to check into hotel renovation progress.

Next meeting will be electronic on Feb 6, 7-8:30pm, at an URL to be published later