

Attendees: Rick, Linnea, Ann, Ed Beecher (sloweddi), Rachel, Ben Yalow, Howitzer, John L, Dan R, Ruth S, Alva

Ben Yalow joined us in a special guest appearance to add his experiences with virtual cons.

Meeting began at 7:02pm.

#### Chair Remarks

Dan is pretty confident we won't have sufficient memberships but hotel won't discuss it until 8/15

Linnea attended two virtual cons: Filkontario and Balticon.

Filkontario had a single track, and that provided about 75% of what a filk con might have. In that sense, it was a good experience.

Balticon used webinars for panels and discord for after-panel discussions. Not seeing the audience definitely had an effect on the speakers. Filk panels still had conversations but in the chat area. Zoom meetings were set up by topic and there were limits to each session. Dan was annoyed because he had to login to every single one. [Ben added that room limits were what dictated the need to log in.] Livestream is an option for overflow but that is a non-interactive medium. There was a problem with 'squatters' - people who logged into a room and never left, making it difficult for new people to enter/join. It was suggested that opening ceremonies could be pre-recorded and thus be as lavish or frugal as we like. Ben mentioned that the webinar format affords little tweaks that can improve the experience. He suggested talking to Balticon about how to efficiently validate and pre-register people.

ConZealand is planning to open a discord chat room immediately after each webinar to provide for interactive discussion/questions. It can continue independent of the original webinar.

Linnea observed that Zoom doesn't allow you to give virtual 'badges' to participants, but Ben pointed out discord does.

Ben said that ConZealand is developing software to help manage media.

Dan reported that the Foglios are ok with both a virtual con this year and a postponed con to next year.

Linnea: we have not opened our room block yet.

[\*\*] Dan will check with hotel liaison on what they'd like to do

Aaron said that's a con level activity, not corporate

Linnea will follow up.

Art show has 1 artist!

We should develop a common set of tools for people to do giveaways (free table, or dealers)

We will have a virtual component even if we have an actual con. That means we should begin planning for that now and worry about the size of that component later.

Rachel asked: can we do podcast type things? There's no policy preventing it but there may be technical issues. Ed suggested finding local people doing podcasts and ask them for advice.

#### Unresolved action items

[\*\*] Dan to arrange a meeting with Rachel, Holly, and the chairs to discuss virus planning in more detail.

[\*\*] Dan to poke Jason for Gaming liaison.

[\*\*] Linnea to email filk team.

[\*\*] Linnea to run photo policy by the OSFCI Board.

Nothing of importance from department reports.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Next meeting July 18, 1pm-2:30pm, virtual meeting on Zoom.