

Attendees: Rick Lindsley [secretary], Linnea Thompson [co-chair], Daniel Reitman [co-chair], Shane Sauby, Howitzer [info desk 2nd], Ann Ezell [membership services], Holly Irons [PR], Aaron Curtis [fill-in for hotel], Ed Beecher [reg worker], Scott Huber [dealers]

Meeting began at 1:06pm.

Editor GoH (Toni Weisskopf) has withdrawn her acceptance.

Aaron reported on his conversation with the Red Lion. First, since there had been some confusion on the topic, he confirmed that Debra Stansbury is our con hotel liaison. [Aaron helps with hotel contracts at the OSFCI level.] The Red Lion believes there will be lower risk come June; maybe operating at 50% capacity. The figure being tossed about now is 36 square feet of space per person. If that figure is used then simple math applied against the room sizes suggests we'd have to cap at about 700 – and that assumes every space is used for programming (no art show, no dealers).

The new room the hotel has created has an A and a B section from the old restaurant. B likely is securable overnight, but A is unlikely. There is not certainty on either statement though, and that remains to be confirmed.

Ultimately, of course, the hotel provides final numbers on capacity, taking into account guidelines and restrictions at the time. This could again, unfortunately, mean late-breaking news as we near November. It was observed that on some of the smaller rooms (suites), any sort of reduction in capacity makes them virtually useless for any sort of activities.

One suggestion was to omit gaming, art show, dealer's ... everything except programming, in an effort to maximize programming. It was vigorously discussed with no clear conclusion.

Aaron reminded us the real cost is room penalties; if they are not reduced and we do not meet them, our attendance numbers won't matter. The point being made was, this year we *may* see a bigger disconnect between attendance and room nights as people become less likely to travel and the con becomes more local, so that may bear closer watching.

Rick suggested we put a liberal stick in the ground and move forward, knowing we'll have to adjust, just to avoid prolonged discussions and hesitancy in planning. The chairs were reluctant to make such a decision without input from programming, who was not represented at the meeting.

Aaron will talk to the hotel about room block changes and occupancy issues like 50% capacity and see what accommodations they may already be prepared to make.

There are a number of open positions yet. The top three are treasurer, head of personnel, and head of registration. There are openings for 2nds (or trainees for future department heads) for several departments, and many openings for supporting staff. Linnea noted that without a head of personnel, the duty falls to the chair and with all the covid planning, she has no time to promote and try to fill any of them. Holly said if they had descriptions, they expect to have more time in the upcoming weeks and may be able to help with that.

It was noted that Patty Wells and Linda Pilcher had offered to help some with volunteers but needed to be contacted to iron out exactly how much time and effort they'd have available.

Rick, as a former OSFCI treasurer, had the desired skills to be treasurer and is considering switching from secretary to treasurer. That would, of course, leave an opening at secretary.

Volunteers will need a more intense effort this year. We will either need room monitors to enforce room capacities, or zoom monitors to keep online presentations from being interrupted ... plus all the usual volunteers as well. Some of these will need training, and others won't. Some will show up at-con and others are needed pre-con. Our volunteer coordinator will likely have a more complex job this year.

Dealer's room might be okay as is from a dealer standpoint, because the booths themselves introduce spacing. But the number of people allowed in at one time may have to be capped, and if the attendance is lower than usual, some dealers may decide coming to Orycon isn't worth it this year. Rick volunteered to send mail to Scott seeking advice on behalf of the chairs.

Membership costs – Howitzer wanted to know if staff and concom will need to pay for memberships. Knowing that makes it easier to drum up volunteers. There was a brief discussion on the difference between volunteers, staff, and concom, but it was decided those lines would be drawn later.

There was a brief discussion on how some cons with the opportunity to go live are still planning either virtual or hybrid. Would hybrid involve zoom, live podcasts, or both? No conclusion was drawn.

Shane suggested limiting registration to pre-con (some cons are doing that to make things easier on themselves.) Social distancing may make gaming challenging or impossible. Rick suggested groups of gamers could self-select at their own safety level and then those groups would be properly distanced, but it was pointed out that would still rule out any dynamic situations like an open table or game testing.

The meeting adjourned at 3:07pm.