



February 2021 Board Meeting - 2/7/2021 @ 4pm

Attendees: Chris Stolte (MTCLMBR), Renee Vanselow (AuntieNae), Jason Johnston (jnj-wi), Jim Peterson (bigjim60), Kelly King (King54130), Carson Monroe (ACME_WildCachers), Rebecca Dauterman (graphicsgirl19)

Aaron Wurster (MASKinWI) and Brian Zubowski (zeeman_clan) were not able to attend.

Becca called the meeting to order at 4:06pm.

Standing Topics

Treasurer's Report

- Kelly said she sold a little bit of merchandise at Janboree. She will coordinate with Renee to get the items taken out of inventory and get the money deposited.

Beginning Balance 1/10/2020	\$7,674.94
Wisconsin DNR (Yellowstone Shelter Reservation)	-\$52.75
Google (Web Hosting)	-\$12.00
Ending Balance 2/7/2020	\$7,610.19
Cash on Hand (Jim \$61, Kelly \$17)	\$78
Path Cash	\$306.00

Committee Reports

- Photo of the Month
 - Chris will make the updates for January and Photo of the Year.
 - Chris asked what the prize was for Photo of the Year. Kelly said she's pretty sure it's a geocaching.com premium membership and others agreed that sounded right.
 - Chris will take care of awarding for January and setting up the Photo of the year post.
- Newsletter
 - Becca said the newsletter is out.
- Website
 - Carson mentioned that he made several updates to the existing website. We recently assessed progress on the new site and realized it was still a little further off than we'd hoped, so he wanted to put some attention in to the current site.
 - Updated How to Be a Board Member and other pages under the BOD Info Center.
 - Created the new, manually updated State Park Series Top Finders page.
 - Reformatted the Bylaws, TOS, and Privacy Policy pages.

- Social Media
 - Jason said we have gained 235 new followers on Facebook in the last year. A pretty impressive number!

Next Event: Spring Picnic

- Kelly ran into a cacher at Janboree who is willing to do hides in the area (themrwiegel). He is also willing to take over as the trail boss for the State Park cache which is not in the greatest shape currently.
- Kelly asked if Jim ever heard back from park staff. He has not. Kelly said she could reach out again and pass along any info to themrwiegel.
- Kelly booked the last non-handicap electric site at Yellowstone. But we can get a link to the chamber of commerce page to give people alternative lodging options. Chris said we can also offer up other parks in the area via social media.
- Kelly said that she was thinking of a Kidz Club activity to craft a stone mod podge magnet that we could put together for less than \$20. If we're able to have that kind of interaction.
- Jason asked how much participation we've gotten in the past. Kelly said that the last one she remembers had about a dozen kids max.
- Chris also suggested there are lots of coloring pages we could offer up. We can discuss that with the new board.

Unfinished Topics from Prior Meetings

2021 Theme

- Tabled until the big meeting later this month.

Board of Directors Nominations and Election

- Chris said that 52 members have voted. 250 member accounts have logged into the website within the last year, so there are more people out there who could be voting. He said he will do some additional promotion, maybe send a newsletter to encourage people to vote.
- Carson added Candidates Corner links for each candidate shortly after the start of voting.
- Chris also added a popup to the voting flow for any member that did not choose the full number of candidates possible. Now they must confirm they want to vote for fewer candidates before submitting their ballot.
- The election ends on 2/14 at 11:59pm.

Virtual Event Like Cache Advance Mappy Hour

- Tabled until the big meeting later this month.

New Topics

Membership Approval Process Update

- Kelly found that a fake new member had gotten through the approval process. Their geocaching name wasn't real and most of the info provided was not real.
- Carson pointed out that this user promptly made several spam posts in the forum.
- Chris suggested that we should primarily check the ZIP code. This would allow someone from say, the DNR, to still create an account even if they didn't have one on geocaching.com.
- Carson said he felt that some seemingly bogus info should be enough to trigger reaching out to the user before approving the account.

- Kelly asked Jim what he normally looks at since he's been doing membership approvals the longest. He usually checks the address and email to make sure they are reasonable and not obviously from Russia (for example).
- Kelly said the committee can decide what guidelines they want to use moving forward. Carson suggested the committee can document the guidelines after the new members are chosen at the big meeting.

Slack Workspace Transition

- Chris said that Brian has turned over ownership of the current workspace for 2020 to the WGA Gmail account.
- Carson asked how we were going to handle the transition to a new workspace for 2021. When all business was conducted on the forums, candidates that won a seat in the election would get read only access to the private forums right after the election but were expected not to participate or vote on motions until the big meeting. Chris clarified that incoming board could technically post in that period, they just didn't by convention.
- Chris's thought on the transition approach was to create the new workspace for the new board immediately following the election. From a historic standpoint, we can also add the new members to the 2020 Slack workspace so they can view or recent discussions. He said this could potentially be confusing for people who aren't familiar with Slack, but it shouldn't be too bad.
- Carson said his only hesitation is that the board members in the middle of their term will need to be in two places for a while. He mentioned his long-term goal of making the Slack archive available outside of Slack, and the idea that we could offer that up to the new board members. However, that plan isn't fully realized yet, and the archive would not include any conversation that happens during the two-week overlap period. He agreed Chris's suggestion is probably the easiest.
- Kelly asked how private conversations are handled when Slack stuff is exported. Chris and Carson confirmed that direct messages and private channels are not included in the export, it's only messages and threads from public channels.
- Carson volunteered to handle the workspace transition.
- Jason asked to confirm that the WGA Gmail account will own the workspaces moving forward. Carson confirmed that was the plan.

Potential Bylaw Changes

- Carson said he's been working on some ideas, but he didn't mind waiting until the big meeting since we are short on time.

Improved Board Transition Documentation

- Carson said that he has been putting together a checklist covering all of the things that need to be handled around the time of the election, for onboarding new directors, and handoffs between officers. He showed a sample of what he had so far and asked for people to provide feedback.
- Chris suggested that committee transition information should be included as well.
- Carson said his goal is to make sure that incoming board members will feel more prepared than he did.
- Kelly said that she was promised a mentor when she started, but it never came to pass.
- Jason said that we need to add soliciting member feedback after the election and before the big meeting. Chris said he was planning to do this right after the election ends to allow two weeks for that feedback to come in.
- Carson also said that this will be a living document. As we go through the transition this year, we can keep track of things we forgot and get them added.

Tax-Exempt Status Final Word

- Jason wanted to share some additional information on this so it would be documented. He contacted a lawyer at a firm in the Madison that specializes in non-profit stuff.
- She agreed with the assessment we'd already done that we are not a good fit for 501(c)3, we could probably go for 501(c)7, and they could help us if we were interested. But we've already decided not to pursue it further.
- The email reads:

Jason,

Thanks for your patience. Based on what you've shared, it does sound like the WGA is a social club and could qualify as a 501c7 but not a 501c3. To qualify as a 501c3, your mission must be educational, or charitable, or advance science, among some reasons. A c7 is a social club. The advantage of a c7 is that revenues are exempt from taxes, but you are not eligible for foundation grants and donations are not tax-deductible. We could assist with forming a c7, if you think that makes sense.

I hope that helps.

Becca adjourned the meeting at 5:03pm.

Outstanding Action Items

- Do we need our own insurance policy on the trailer? - Jim
- Research display board options for the WGA geocoin collection - Chris
- Develop Slack export plan - Chris, Carson
- Planning for monthly cache spotlight - Chris
- Virtual events - Carson
- Work with Linda (lostcheq) to reset expectations for Amnicon Falls SPS cache - Kelly
- Planning for spring picnic event - Kelly, Jason
- Add stated goal of LCG and more explanation for how caches make the list - LCG Committee
- Return all merchandise to the trailer - Kelly
- Return tablet and Square equipment to the trailer - Renee
- New stickers for the trailer from Lois - Anyone