

ESCYPAA Business Meeting | 8/15/2019

Present: Mercedes, KC, Dana, Bradley, Carolyn, Bobby, Chris, Billy, Jenna

Absent: Brandi, Scott, Sarah, Casey, Andy, Jessica, Lisa

I. Discussion of BEO

ACTION ITEMS / QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

- Review addendum offering use of the Riverside Ballroom for free because of pool situation
- Request for locked Archives room for entire convention weekend
- Discuss possible glitter fee with committee; ways to prevent this (social media blitz, announcements, include in program somewhere, etc.)
- More chairs for the Board room

Discussion:

- GLITTER & OTHER MADNESS:
 - There is a \$300 fee for "glitter, wax [wtf??], or confetti" - does the committee have a plan in place to prevent those goddamn confetti bombs from being used?
 - Last year we had to pick pieces of confetti up by hand after the main meeting.
 - ESCYPAA V was prepared to pay the fee; this should be discussed with the committee.
- ADVISORY BOARD ROOM:
 - Our Advisory meeting room will be set for 16 people, which works for us but we will need more chairs during elections and if host members join us for our meetings.
 - On page 31, it says that the Advisory Board room is only available until 1pm on Sunday. This is not enough time for the committee to do their wrap up meeting.
 - *KC: We met in this same room on ESCYPAA II and there was enough room for everyone; we just need more chairs, not space.*
- ARCHIVES:
 - Will the committee have a key or a way to secure the Archives room? We only have that room for Saturday, August 31. That means setting up and breaking down that room in one day and that's not feasible for our schedule.
 - Why wasn't Archives prioritized? The expectations were communicated to the host committee (time that volunteers would be needed, having a locked room, etc.).
- HUGS WORKSHOP:
 - It looks like there is an additional \$500 fee for use of the Riverview Ballroom for the HUGS workshop - every other room, space, table, etc. does NOT have a "Rental" cost listed, as they all fall under the \$3,900 total we're paying the hotel... except for this one.
 - Is this \$500 on top of whatever presenter expenses there are?
 - *Bobby: As per the hotel contract, this \$500 charge was included in the signed contract.*
- POOL:
 - We've been "compensated" with a 3 hour window of time to use the pool at the neighboring hotel, during which time other Hyatt guests will also have access to it.

- All year this seemed like a must-have, but this does not seem realistic for us to use this space for anything considering the limitations.
- Why are we paying for this space if we're not able to use it?
- *Bobby: We are paying for the pool deck, not the pool itself (as per the signed hotel contract). We also can't deny hotel guests the use of the pool that they're paying for as part of their hotel room.*

· HOSPITALITY:

- Why are there three separate rooms being used for Hospitality? McQuaid, Lion, and Keating are all designated Hospitality Rooms.

II. Discussion of Host Committee Finances

- Members of the committee wanting to exercise right of decision to may purchases or cover expenses that this committee simply cannot afford at this moment.
- Concern that Kailee (Host Treasurer) is being forced to act as gatekeeper to an increasingly agitated committee requesting payment for non-necessary items.
- Although Advisory signed off on the proposed budget at the beginning of the year, it was never re-assessed when actual income did meet projected. E.g. ESCYPAA V, which found itself in a similar financial situation in the months leading up to the convention and reassessed and pulled back on all non-essential expenses.
- As of today, Matt (Host Chair) is on the bank account, as Kailee will be out of town August 24 - 29.
- Mercedes requested that Matt call a meeting with the host committee this upcoming Saturday (August 17) at 3pm at the STCYPAA campout to go over upcoming expenses line by line and answer any questions that may arise.
- Chris gave a summary of host committee finances, including expenses and when they would need to be paid (before, during, or after the convention).
- Discussion:
 - We're limited to a 3 hour time slot on the Hyatt pool, which has serious space limitations, at an expense of \$500 plus administrative fees? This seems excessive.
 - It feels like a Traditions violation to have host committee members paying for expenses out of their own pockets because this committee is not able to cover those costs now.
 - Concern over having Matt on the bank account and his ability to say no to requests for money.

Motion that Advisory take over Host 6's finances until August 29, 2019, the Thursday of the convention weekend. [Jenna, Dana]

Discussion:

- I think this is a bad idea; I think they can cover the expenses listed here with the money they have. I don't know why we would need to take over their expenses before the convention if they have the money to cover their expenses, including reimbursing their Registration Chair. I think it's reasonable that they will bring in an additional \$5,000 after the convention. There's a deficit now but we're two weeks out; they're going to ICYPAA and have a ton of merchandise to sell. I would be much more comfortable with them not being able to spend money outside of the spreadsheet prior to talking to Advisory.
- I second the idea of just limiting them to only spending within this spreadsheet.
- Immediately jumping to taking over seems a little too aggressive; I also agree with what was said. They

can make it, but they can't make it outside of the spreadsheet. It's concerning but not dire.

- If we make this decision, they will dislike Advisory and we will sever all relationships with them. I think taking over their bank account is drastic. We had discussed doing this with another host committee at one time and that committee ended up being the most lucrative. I think we need to work on fostering our relationship with them more and building that trust, rather than saying we don't believe in them. We need clearer communication with them and they should see the document Chris has made. Their recent host committee minutes do make it seem like there is miscommunication between the reality of things and a sense of "don't worry, god's got us."

- I agree with everything that was said and think this move would set a dangerous precedent.

- On one end, \$5,000 in two weeks is a lot but it's not impossible. I think having this all laid out in front of them and explained in person on Saturday will help get everyone on the same page.

- Y'all are amazing and have turned my original opinion around. I was riding on a fear-driven high horse and you guys have all brought me back down to a more spiritual center. I LOVE YOU ALL.

- Albany brought in \$8,500 during the convention weekend (with like 1200 pre-registrations!); Long Island brought in \$17,000 (wowzers); Buffalo brought in like \$11,000. This is doable!

Vote: Yes 0 / No 0

Motion to limit Host 6 expenses to what is laid out in the spreadsheet. [Dana, Jenna]

Discussion:

- Point of information: the spreadsheet is limited to what is in the original budget; as per our bylaws, they already can't add anything new that we didn't originally approve.

- Point of EVEN MORE information: the spreadsheet does not exactly match the original budget. It pares it down, and this motion would keep that tighter rein on expenses.

- Really dislike the \$400 expense for the comedian. Would like to suggest to the committee that they reconsider this expense.

- I would rather just have a conversation than take punitive action. I don't like motions that predict for a future that hasn't happened.

Vote: Yes 4 / No 4

Minority Opinion swayed NO ONEEEEEEEEEEE damn it I tried. JK, group conscience, I'm not that powerful.

Motion fails!

Things to convey to the host committee on Saturday:

- Please tell them we love them!

- Revisit non-essentials (e.g. Drag Show and comedian)

- Look into speaker gifts