

Dragonfest Town Hall Meeting

7/20/2012

Board Members / Corporate Officers Attending

- Sheána Heartsong, President, Board Director & Safety Officer
- Dona Carroll, Board Director & Registrar
- Joseph Davalt, Board Director & Past Director of Operations
- Cece Thomas, Board Director & Communications Officer (briefly)
- Christine Childs, Board Director & Site Facilities Co-Director
- Shandara Longstrider, Contracts
- Ann Meade, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am. Aside from the board members and corporate officers in attendance, there were approximately 20 people attending the meeting. A Dragonfest Cancellation Fact Sheet was handed out to those attending.

Sheána asked for a moment of silence for Dan Steer and to honor those who were wounded or lost their lives in the Aurora Movie Theater shooting of the day before.

After briefly going over the decision the Board made in cancelling this year's retreat, the floor was opened for questions.

One attendee noted that he had received his call to notify him of the cancellation of this years retreat and asked that the Board be sure to notify all the other registered members. Dona informed those attending that the Board and assisting staff members spent four hours calling each and every registered attendee. Those who were not spoken to directly, were left messages or sent emails.

Deb Myers (land owner) commented on the condition of the property and noted while there had been rain and things had greened up, this was only surface. Underneath it was still crunchy, the ponds were still dry and it looked to be going back to the same dry conditions of 3 weeks ago.

The question was put to those attending of what can Dragonfest do going forward. Joseph said he had heard from Joy Burton from Living Earth and she had suggested possibly hosting a weekend event with vendors and workshops. The tentative dates are 8-2 thru 8-4. Phoenix, our Merchant Coordinator is working with Joy to contact vendors. Details are still being worked out and Joseph will be in touch with Joy.

Those attending were told of the Mabon ritual to be held on Deb's property September 22 from 10:00 – 4:00 with workshops and vendors. The event will end with a Mabon Ritual and is open to anyone who wants to attend. The question was raised about pre-registering for this event. The Board will discuss this at their next regularly scheduled board meeting and will announce if there will be pre-registration.

Again the question was raised, “What would you like to see from Dragonfest?”

Suggestions were;

- Pot lucks at the Living Earth Center
- Fund raising events every quarter
- Sponsor regional event days with other organizations like Beltania and Apogea to find out how each handles emergencies.

The Board will research and discuss these options as well as others that appeared on Dragonfest’s Facebook page.

Evacuation Plan

The question of developing a sound evacuation plan was raised. Sheána addressed this issue explaining that she spent over 40 hours creating and fleshing out a comprehensive evacuation plan with support and input from the Board and staff as well as input from the landowner and local authorities. The Plan was officially approved by the Board. The next step in finalizing this Plan is to conduct several drills onsite with the staff and board to work out any problems or flaws the Plan might have. There is a weekend fire drill scheduled in the spring to test the Plan. Additionally all staff will be trained at the onsite staff meeting in July and again on the Tuesday prior to the event. It was also noted that during the time the Retreat was held at Wellington Lake, Castle Mountain Recreation had an existing evacuation plan already approved by the County. Shandara explained to those attending how our evacuation plan came into being. While filing for the permit with Jefferson County, Shandara spoke with our Permit contact Chris Cheany about what we would need given the extreme drought and fire conditions and was advised to speak directly with the fire department as they are one of the county entities that would have to approve our application before it can be finalized. She spoke with Kirk from North Fork Fire Department who advised us to attach our evacuation plan to the permit application so that both the Fire Dept and the Sheriff’s office could see that we are prepared in the event of an emergency. Kirk also said that by attaching the evacuation plan, it would help to speed the process through the various departments.

In answer to the question asked about options for incoming firefighters if the one lane road was blocked by members attempting to exit; as noted in our Evacuation Plan, Dragonfest will always work with local authorities in making sure their needs are met while guaranteeing the safety of our membership. It was also asked what might happen if there was a pre-evacuation notice from officials. Though there is no land line and cell phones can be spotty, the landowner Deb said that there was a neighborhood watch with a phone tree set up to call each other if/when necessary. With our filed permit, the local Sheriff and Fire Department are aware of our event and will be working with Dragonfest to make sure we are warned as soon as possible in the event of an emergency. Dragonfest is also researching a few alternatives for clearer and consistent communication during the week of the Retreat including shortwave radio or satellite phone or wi-fi options.

Other suggestions concerning the evacuation plan;

- One possible option for our evacuation plan is access to maps with every possible option to roads around the ranch. (This has already been addressed in the Plan)
- The key infrastructures to work out are communications, redeveloping the Dragonfest website so a copy of the emergency evacuation plan could be posted there for members to see.
- It was also suggested that additional fire extinguishers could be purchased and possibly require each attendee to have at least one fire extinguisher at their campsite.
- On call safety response – who is responsible? Safety or Medical? It will be discussed with the board and the corporate safety and medical leads.
- Trevor volunteered to find out about the “fire truck” that was on site at Apogea and if it is something Dragonfest could duplicate.
- How would members be alerted in cases of emergency? The Board addressed this in the Plan using bullhorns with emergency sirens.

With no more questions or discussion the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.