

Sunday November 12th 2023 at 4pm

AGENDA

1. Feast of the Hare - Event Report
2. Feast of the Lombardy - Progress Update
3. Practicum Bid - present and vote (first presentation was online Nov 1st)
4. Activity Fees w/ City of Ottawa rentals
5. Officer Reports
6. Around the Room

Minutes:

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Attendance: Gina, Duncan, Petronill, Cecilia, Constance , Estienne, Sebastien, May, Lorette, Gavin, Elsebeth

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1. Feast of the Hare Event Report:

Lorette provided the Hare event report:

Hare a success!

132 attendees total

Profit almost 2000\$

Armoured / rapier tournaments went well

A&S Classes went well.

Thanked her massive team of volunteers

People at meeting agreed that the event had been impressively well organized and thanked Leanne as well as her impressive team of staff and volunteers.

Cecilia requested that we vote on the Kingdom Donation:

Moved by Estienne, Seconded by Gina that we donate 132\$ to the Kingdom of Ealdoremere , passed unaminously.

Lorette had some feedback about the event site (BCUC) and suggestions and feedback:

Site feedback from Leanne:

- fighting and fencing were ran together, but she would prefer to have options to run both separately
- suggested that we might want a site that allows us a much later close (event ended at 8pm so that we would be done with cleanup by a hard stop of 9pm)
- thinks event hall is too small, because of # of presences compared to size of space
- prefer site where we could make dedicated change rooms available
- if fighting and fencing had had to be inside, the gym was not accessible (which is why it was booked only as a last resort of outdoor couldn't be done)
- Majesties wanted an entertainment area during feast but she didn't think we had enough room (would prefer a larger feast hall)
- thought the bar worked really well in this year's location in the nook with chairs

In terms of the "we should have a bigger Hare space next year" , Lorette volunteered to research possible site options.

She asked if we could pay more rent (and go up in site charge) (Answer: yes), and she took some other information down on typical requirments we have for a site (e.g. the expectation that the site will be accessible from an LGBT perspective e.g. we don't book at religous institutions that are not LGBTQ+ affirming and positive spaces)

2. Feast of the Lombardy - Progress Update

Constance swung by site to give them the payment and get the contract, she will arrange meet with Ceclia for signing it.

Their Majesties will be having court at event, along with other entertainments.

Kit working on schedule for entertainments

So far: songs, some rounds sing along period songs from May, dancing

Recipes are being worked on

Gina asked when will pre reg open? answer: probably this week

3. Practicum Bid - present and vote (first presentation was online Nov 1st)

Gina presented the Practicum bid (which had been previously mailed to the populace on November 1st).

Staff:

Event Steward: Gina, Deputy Constance

Gatekeeper: Christabel

Lunch: John Moran

Dinner: Potluck

Royalty Liaison: Wilhelm

Herald: Colyn

Classes Organizer: Morag

Head of Event Teardown: Richard Cook

Reservations Steward: Laura Gagne , using conplanner software (same as last year)

Cecilia suggested that Gina might want to ask the person who had been really helpful on IT support last year in the FB event regarding people's conplanner issues on event staff as IT support.

Constance checked and confirmed that it had been Thorfinna (Melanie Fischer) who had been so helpful , Gina will ask her if she can be help with conrununer support this year.

The bid was initially presented with an assumed site rental fee of 450\$ and with a site fee for attendees of 15\$.

It was decided to vote to approve the bid with the rental cost budgeted to 1000\$ as we suspected that the 450 was low (e.g. the site had only quoted a couple of rooms instead of the whole site) and that we increased the site fee for members to 20\$.

We discussed some accessibility issues with the site:

a) The Elevator

The Rideau Park site has 3 levels: the lower level which has one hall and most of the classrooms, the middle level which is the entrance way from the parking lot, and the upper level which is the main hall and kitchen and parlour.

There is an elevator, but in order to operate the elevator a key must be used to call it and a key must be used inside to operate it. In order to have smooth operation of the elevator for attendees without anyone on elevator duty, we would need 4 keys (one for each level, plus one for the elevator on the inside), but in 2019 and 2020 the site only has 3 keys.

Some options were discussed:

Constance wants to solve the issue by ensuring that we have a 4th elevator key made. Lorette suggested a website selling elevator keys that might help in this regard.

If this is not possible some other options for staffing the elevator were suggested by various parties:

- trying to get high schoolers to volunteer : because we don't charge for 17 and under and don't require garb, this might be a good fit towards their required volunteer hours.
- trying to get Canton members who otherwise don't normally attend Practicum to volunteer

Action: As Constance is very committed on getting the 4th key and making the elevator work, we agreed that we would revisit this at the January meeting and if the key situation is not resolved we would discuss plan B (elevator staffing options) plans at the January meeting.

b) Ice / Snow clearing and parking

A smaller accessibility issue identified with site is that depending on the weather the back parking lot is often icy as are the side streets (parking usually overflows into the side streets).

Lorette and Estienne suggested a volunteer posse of able-bodied volunteers can salt the back lot if required, as well as help with providing escorts to cars on street parking if needed.

For classes, Lorette asked if we would have the ability to do martial or fencing classes (answer: yes maybe: the main hall has high ceilings).

The maybe came with a caveat that as it is the main hall any class involving sport would need to use non-marking shoes.

There is also a yoga room / small gymnasium. In previous years most fencing or armoured classes have been more focused on theory or drills.

Event vote:

Moved by Duncan, Seconded by Elsebeth that we approve the Practicum Bid as presented with the modifications to have the site fee set to 20\$ and the site rental charges budgeted up to 1000\$.

Vote passed with one abstention.

4. Activity Fees w/ City of Ottawa rentals

Cecilia explained the letter she had gotten from the Jack Purcell recreation manager that detailed that indicated that they had been audited and that 90% of their previous bookings at the not-for-profit rate no longer qualified at that rate. The letter included many specific examples in which they discussed that in order to qualify that activity itself had to be free and broad and thus things like sports classes and cultural dance practices - even if operated by non-profits or charities and open to the public and with no set charge - no longer qualified.

At the time of the meeting, Cecilia was not yet certain if the impact was widespread (i.e. affecting our armoured or dance contracts as those had not yet gotten renewed) or if the audit had been focused on just Jack Purcell RC.

If it was going to affect all the activities that would be a whole other discussion, but as it was, we would need to decide what we wanted to do. We have the current not-for-profit pricing for fencing until end of March, the increase affects the new contract covering April-December 2024, so we have some time to figure this out.

Right now our activity costs are in the vicinity of 25\$ a night for armoured, a little under 20\$ a night for fencing, and 14\$ a night for dance.

The new fencing contract jumps to 67\$ a night.

She asked for input into the following ideas: Petronill had suggested talking to our city councillor (maybe try to coordinate with other affected groups?) , seeing if fighting and fencing can move to a shared practice to ease the cost burden, deciding to just pay it and collect more at fencing practice?, looking for a new location ?

Discussion:

Constance: asked Cecilia for a copy of the letter she had received (will send).

Lorette: asked how we are designated not for profit e.g. provincially ?

Cecilia: explained it isn't about our not for profit status, it's about the activity, and shared her screen to both share the letter she had received and the city webpage that defines rental terms.

According to the city website, a Not For Profit Activity is: An activity that fits with the Recreation, Culture and Facility Services' mandate and is not intended to generate a profit. This activity must be open to everyone.

Rentals that are by not for profits that don't fit the above definition are booked as "Private Activities" for which the rental rates are about 3-4x as expensive.

The letter from Jack Purcell claimed that we (and the other activities affected) no longer qualified because we of the "fit the mandate" clause.

Duncan: Talked about how he had difficulty getting the armoured booking during the pandemic shutdowns , and the cost had increased (although this was because the Sandy Hill hours were different and we were paying an after hours surcharge), and also suggested that we talk to city councillor

Estienne: commented that JPRC has a locker with fencing loaner gear , which would be inconvenient to move.

They also expressed concern that a joint practice with armoured and fencing would be much too loud for participants with noise sensitivity

Sebastien: Concurred that it would be very hard to teach in a joint practice, recommended against it

Gina: Commented that her community association was told a similar thing about fees and they were discussing it with their city councillor (different site, in Kanata)

Lorette: Asked how much rapier is bringing in to cover costs

Elsebeth answered: Pretty close (collects quarterly, if a quarter costs 224\$ to rent have gotten about 200\$ from the fencers)

Lorette: Asked if we have any other sites lined up (Answer: no)

Gavin: Commented that using a site other than the JPRC would be difficult because of the locker they let us use, being able to store the loaner gear rather than carting it around is a huge benefit, especially as it allows any of the authorized marshalls who run practice to access the loaner gear

Gavin: In terms of the cost, they ideally try to collect 5\$ a practice from each fencer, and if they need to be a more firm/whip-cracky about it than they could do so. He thinks they might be able to handle the increased cost if they do so (new cost would be 67\$ a night, current attendance is usually 8-10 a practice currently).

Lorette: Suggested offering a season pass option (e.g. 5\$ a practice or some type of semester or monthly pass option)

Duncan: Commented that we could save money by not renting in the summer (when can be outdoors) but then we would also risk losing the site if we did that.

Action:

Estienne to provide Cecilia with info she can find re who some of the other rental are

Cecilia to talk to city councillor

Gavin to talk to fencers about the upcoming increase so that if it's unavoidable we have a consensus among the fencers about the preferences

5. Officer Reports:

Exchequer:

a) Noted that feast and lunch went over budget for Hare, but were still within the overall Hare budget as we had a misc line item.

Lunch was over by 25\$, Feast by 64\$ so these costs were covered under misc (which had a budget of 100\$ that was not otherwise required).

b) Thank you Constance and Kit for Gold Key sales, collected 157\$

Suggested vote to ratify emergency decision that Elsbeth and Cecilia agreed we could sell the gold key (re financial policy allowing seneschal and exchequer to make between meeting approvals then to be presented at next meeting)

Constance commented that she didn't think we needed to approve anything as the gold key was donated, not an asset we had purchased, view was that officer could decide.

Petronill commented that we don't need a super formal process but that it's deciding should be a group activity, not just by one person (with examples of how the group may differ, e.g. the fencers could decide that a piece of loaner gear needed to be gotten rid of, but that discussion still happened with the community of fencers and was still a group discussion)

Some discussion ensued re interpretation of the policy regarding gold key or other items donated to canton, as well as how this compared to how we handle other items (e.g. throwing away broken loaner gear, replacing worn feast gear) and it became clear that several of us disagreed on how this should be handled, and that this was a gap that adding some clarity to the financial policy could resolve.

Cecilia suggested that we update the canton financial policy with a clause for management of donated items, everyone present agreed this would be the best solution to go forward on.

c) Henry is donating a laptop to us for Exchequer use, it was Enid's laptop and we all agreed that Enid would be chuffed to know that the canton will benefit from the use of laptop.

d) Q3 report has gone in

A&S Minister:

Reminder to submit items for A&S report by November 28th

Seneschal:

Announced that the Tudor Potluck item from the October meeting hadn't been forgotten or left off the agenda, the organizers (Cristabel and John Moran) had decided it was too similar to the Feast of Lombardy event and so they plan to organize a Tudor Potluck in fall 2024 instead.

Dance:

Dancing might shift day / location, we are going to look into the possibility a different practice schedule/ location especially if the city costs go up

Fencing:

Will talk to community re cost stuff above, also a 1st timer from Hare showed up and hoping they will stick around, yay new fencers!

Archery:

One of the new arrows made last year has split, RIP arrows

Chatelaine: Emptied 2 large totes due to gold key purge, will offer on FB and/or email list as free to a good home.

6. Around the Room

No around the room items

Meeting adjourned

