

Minutes of the 2023-08-19 Thanksgiving Science Fiction Society Business Meeting

By: Marilyn Mix, Vice-President
Revision 2

Date: August 19, 2023, 2pm

Location: TSFS Discord channel #august-2023-business-meeting

Attendees:

Michael Houghton (Herveus), President
Marilyn Mix, Vice-President, Chessiecon Webmaster and Marketing
Sam Hogan (Poryshkin), Treasurer/Chessiecon 2022 chair
Dave Montouri (Evan), Secretary / Chessiecon Registration
Eric Fleischer (DrG)
Keith Lynch
Meg Hogan (Saria), Chessiecon Video Gaming

Agenda:

1. Next Meeting
2. Treasurer Report
3. Website hosting
4. Other department reports

Next Meeting: December 17, 2:00pm, Sunday. Discord #december-2023-business-meeting

Agenda: Officer nominations, How to rebuild the organization

Called to order: 14:03 EDT

Treasurer Report:

The good news: The debt we owed to the hotel has been paid in full. We have a total of \$2,339.48 in the various accounts. Remaining expenses are things like PO Box, yearly business taxes, the ASCAP license (which was not renewed for 2024), and web hosting. We will need \$20K to host an in-person convention.

Registration Report:

No additional Supporting Memberships. People can request Square invoices by sending Dave their email address.

Marilyn asked about posting on Social Media about Supporting Memberships and requested approved text to use. Poryshkin and Dave provided the following "TSFS and Chessiecon are currently in a rebuilding phase. We are attempting to get together not only the financial resources to be able to hold another

Chessiecon, but more especially the people needed to hold a convention. Chessiecon, like other S/FF conventions, is a membership, dues-driven organization. Supporting memberships are set at \$21.00 annually, and most importantly, allows you a voice in the affairs of Chessiecon, which includes a voice in how & where you'd like to see TSFS take Chessiecon in the future. For a supporting membership, you may send the dues to our paypal address: payments@chessiecon.org , or request a square invoice by sending an e-mail to registrations@chessiecon.org, or if you want to send us an old-fashioned check, that's PO Box 83032 Gaithersburg, MD 20883-3032. Membership is due by 1 December."

Marilyn will edit into something comprehensible.

Marilyn also asked if the supporting membership info was sent to past members.

After Action Report on Storage Unit: (various)

It's empty. The contents were dispersed about.

BSFS got the post-and-chain barricades;

Sam Hogan has a lot of what was in there: video game stuff, miscellaneous things like the spare cash boxes, the tablets we were using, the old registration computers we were using, which are essentially bricks now -- they were using Windows 7.

The art show panels are living in Herveus' shed pending Dave having a chance to get them down to Ayrfield. The t-shirts and mugs are stored [at Chez Herveus]. There was other random stuff that is stowed in the shed for now.

Videogaming Report:

Last time I did an online video game room in 2020, results were very mixed, considering it was mostly me playing games by myself (though I did have fun in Portal 2, thanks Josh!) and the audience that I attracted near the end of the weekend was less than stellar, because Twitch's community is toxic and unmoderated. As such, I don't think I can do a full online gaming this year, but, what I might do is at least attempt to be entertaining to watch by doing a marathon of Legend of Zelda randomizers, since that's how I've been occupying a lot of my time since I got laid off. I have two main caveats to that: 1: I'd need co-commentators to keep me sane and possibly moderate the audience -- I assume Rin and Cory might be interested in that, but I also have some friends I might be able to poke for that weekend. Would people I'd want for co-comm also have to have memberships? I assume yes. 2: I refuse to stream on twitch again after the experience from last time, so I'll need to look into more personal streaming options, probably either discord or zoom screen-sharing. I know there was resistance to that last time, but I absolutely have to be more private for my own mental health.

New Business:

1. New Website/Email host

In the past the Chessiecon website and email has been hosted on a Dreamhost account owned by Jo Hogan. She will be closing that account on September 18. Dreamhost has a starter deal for one-site hosting plus email for 36-months for

\$142.20. There was a brief discussion of an alternative, but Dreamhost is a known entity and supports WordPress, so should be easy. Price rises to \$10.9/month after the promotional period. Jo is willing to help us set up and transfer the current website to the new account.

Motion #1:

Pursue the Shared Unlimited hosting plan with Dreamhost for three years.

Motion: Carried

General Discussion:

1. Social Media:

Add post about Hotel obligation being met. Also generically thanking those who contributed to the GoFundMe, and specifically thanking Danielle Ackley-McPhail for setting it up in the first place?

Meeting adjourned: 15:14 EDT

Motions:

1. Pursue the Shared Unlimited hosting plan with Dreamhost for three years:
Carried
2. Adjourn: Carried

New Action Items:

1. Poryshkin: Work with Jo Hogan to acquire and setup up new DreamHost account for Chessiecon
2. Marilyn: Due: no later than Sept 17; Set up new Chessiecon website on new Dreamhost account.

Action Items from April meeting:

1. Marilyn: create new website instance for 2023, due: mid-summer
2. Marilyn: Post about dues on social media
3. Dave/Poryshkin: Update MailChimp email membership list and send a message about Dues.
4. COMPLETED - Various: empty the store room; plan to release it April 30

Action Items from February meeting.

1. All: Need to find someone who has an interest in leading the crowdfunding effort.

Action Items from January Meeting

1. Yakira: Call on Monday to find out if TSFS has any other obligations to the Lord Baltimore hotel. Report findings to the meeting Discord channel.