

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. March 16, 2020 by board president.

Treasurer's report

Said the target goal was to open registration for the Ale March 15 and close on May Day (May 1st), though it was more likely that registration would open March 22.

Said the organization had paid a \$2,000 nonrefundable deposit that the camp would allow us to apply indefinitely toward a future event, according to communications with the camp staff the morning of March 16. That assumes we cancel the event by April 20.

\$2,000 is about 5% of the MWMA's annual operating budget.

If we were to cancel after April 20, we might be responsible for paying the camp part or all of the projected camp fee.

Ideally, Ale attendance is about 250 people, normally it is around 200.

Treasurer described several scenarios for Ale attendance and the financial implications. Some of the costs are fixed, and some of them are sliding costs (and depend on the number of people who register -- for example, fewer attendees could mean 3 buses instead of 5).

If about 150 people attended, it would still be more than the minimum cost needed to run an Ale, and we would break even.

The minimum cost of running an Ale would *not* be met by an attendance of 100 people, and we would lose money.

The break-even point is about 125 attendees. An amended refund policy would be needed, that would allow someone who was self-isolating or quarantined and therefore unable to travel to have their registration fees refunded up until the event.

Asked for a board vote on whether to hold the Ale before April 20.

A member of General Hardware and a medical doctor said that COVID-19 cases were growing in Wisconsin and that the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control were recommending gatherings of no more than 50 people and the Mayo Clinic recommended meetings of no more than 10 people.

Ale organizers should take into account access to health care during the event and isolation procedures for people who fell ill during the Ale. The General Hardware rep said generally team members did not want to serve as healthcare workers during the ale. He also said he thought attendees would be uneasy during the Ale and it would be hard to relax and have fun.

Oak Apple rep: they had older people on their team, and therefore were concerned about exposing them to the virus. Also had concerns about attendance this year.

Treasurer asked for an amended contract from the camp with the cancellation policy changes in it.

Q and A Period:

Q: What would it cost to issue refunds to people who had registered - if everyone paid up-front and then needed to be refunded?

A: It would cost \$60 to issue refunds to 200 people (this portion is the non-refundable fee that Paypal charges per transaction).

Q: If an ale attendee were to get sick, would everyone who had been at the ale be expected to quarantine themselves for two weeks:

A: General Hardware representative said based on a family member's experience, he thought self-quarantine would be advised. Braintrust rep said that recommended procedures were changing almost daily and what was true now might not be true in May.

Q: could our \$2K deposit could be rolled forward to a future event at Bethel Horizons?

A: yes

Q: Would this year's contract price be honored at a future date?

A: Treasurer said the organization didn't know.

Q: Could we postpone the Ale to Labor Day weekend?

A: Oak Apple rep said many people have commitments for Labor Day. Bells of the North rep said most dancers reserve Memorial Day on their calendars, but use Labor Day for other activities.

Oak Apple rep said that as an organizing team member, putting it off until Labor Day would not make much difference.

Q: is Bethel Horizons financially secure:

A: Oak Apple rep said the camp is well-endowed and part of a well-off Lutheran church in Madison. She said that she thought that if they had to pare back on the events they were hosting, they would remain in operation because they have other sources of financing.

Q: Who is allowed to vote?

A: Board members can vote on what to do with the ale, anyone can participate in conversation or ask questions.

Motion to cancel agreement with Bethel Horizons passed unanimously.

The board directed the Oak Apple rep to speak with the camp to arrange for cancellation. Several meeting attendees said they would like to talk about planning some virtual activities for the community.

For more information on this meeting, contact your team representative or email secretary@midwestmorrisale.org.

