

Council Of Magickal Arts
Beltaine Great Works Minutes
April 17, 2011
Spirithaven

IN ATTENDANCE:

The following members of the Board of Directors were present.

Mary Ellen, Executive Director (ED)
Merideth, Assistant Director (AD)
Blaze, Director of Finance (DoF)
Lisl, Director of Communication (DoC)
Pamela, Director of Records (DoR)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Gary, Corporate Officer
Membership of CMA

MINUTES RECORDER: Pamela Allen, DoR

REASON FOR MEETING:

- ✓ This meeting was held in order to provide reports from the Festival Results.
- ✓ Provide an update by the Bylaw Committee on electronic voting process.
- ✓ Provide an update by the Bylaw Committee regarding the rewriting of the Bylaws.
- ✓ Inform membership an update to the Grey Water Order and other requirements we need to meet.
- ✓ Inform membership of the status of some of our Sacred Spaces.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The agenda was approved by the board and made available to the membership prior to the meeting.
(Attachment A)

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 11:25AM by Mary Ellen, Executive Director

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Currently there are 412 active members. Quorum would be 42. In attendance at the Great Works Meeting there were 60 voting members. A quorum was declared and the meeting proceeded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM GREAT WORKS SAMHAIN

The minutes of the Samhain Great Works Meeting held on October 17th, 2010 as posted on the website were unanimously approved.

Council Of Magickal Arts
Beltaine Great Works Minutes
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Spirithaven

BOARD REPORTS:

Executive Director: Welcomed everyone to the Great Works meeting and thanked them for attending the festival. She stated that we had a wonderful festival. Every festival has an element and this one was the festival of fire. Since the festival was without fire it reminded us of how much we appreciate our fire. Mary Ellen also thanked the existing Board for stepping up and taking care of everything. We have a great staff and I want to recognize and thank them because they know what they are doing and I was always confident that everything was being handled.

Mary Ellen asked that we suspend Robert's Rules of Order since we were not voting on anything this meeting. The motion was made by a member and seconded by another. A call for the vote was given and a unanimous vote to suspend was given. There were no abstentions and no opposed.

She also discussed the us/them mentality and commented that it is important that we all realize that we are all one people. That it is because of all of us, volunteers working together that CMA is what it is today and thanked all the volunteers, past, present and future.

At this time Mary Ellen announced that we were going to have the drawing for the drums. The tickets were brought forward and the drawing was held. The winner of the first drum was declared, Erin who was a newbie and the second winner was Craig Smith from San Antonio. Mary Ellen thanked everyone who helped sell the raffle tickets. With all of us working together it was successful.

Assistance Executive Director: Commented that we had a lot of people step forward to make this event a success. We are a group who makes things happen. Things were a bit different this festival and we adjusted as we needed and compromised coming together as a community. She also stated that the applications for Samhain will go up on the website once we return from festival. We will have the ones for Family Fest and Samhain.

Director of Finance: Reported that the upcoming August mortgage payment had been paid this past Thursday.

❖ Financial Results

- Trolls collected about \$1400
- Waffles \$909
- The Hafla \$203
- Drum Raffle \$700
- Grey Water Raffle - \$700
- The Tea Room

Since our primary focus is for the grey water situation all the monies collected have been donated to go towards that fund. Blaze also mentioned the Phaedra had left that morning to fly home and that she had enjoyed her time while she was here at CMA.

The Corporate Officer, Gary reported that accounting would be done this weekend to verify the number of paid attendees we had at the festival and all monies brought in. He also announced that the EECC group is new and that group will deal with any code issues. Currently we have three issues:

1. Flood Plain – this deals with anything that could be an issue if a flood happened. Right now we have a 'No Build Order'. All of our permanent buildings are not in the flood plain. This is a FEMA Regulation.

Council Of Magickal Arts
Beltaine Great Works Minutes
April 17, 2011
Spirithaven

2. Grey Water Order – Some years ago the state made some changes. We are not surprised by this. Basically we have to treat our water from showers, kitchens and hand washing as semi-black water. We have hired an engineer who knows what to do. He is very flexible and laid back. We do know that Fayetteville County has stricter guidelines. The Judge and county officials were very accommodating for them. They also made note that we are one of the only festivals that causes no problems.
3. Because of the number of people and number of days on the property our well water has to be tested and fixed to be labeled potable. Our water has a lot of salt and calcium. We do not know the cost. It will cost tens of thousands to get this remedied. Blaze thinks it could be close to 50K.

A member stated that as a membership we will need to do some serious fund rising. Another member stated that previously it only took us 48 days to raise 30K.

A member offered to match 10% of all funds that were gathered over the festival for the Grey Water he would match by 10% and he challenged other members to do the same. At this time members started bringing up cash to put towards the amount raised. The member extended his offer to include any monies raised by next Sunday the 24th and once again challenged our membership to do the same.

Blaze commented that it was a large number that we needed but that we could make this happen. We can't do this alone but with everyone pulling together it can be done.

Director of Communications: Reported that there are a lot of electronic things going on. Registration goes live on the web site tomorrow. She also mentioned that we are cross merchandising with other sites so that we advertise on their site and they in turn advertise on ours. She also stated that we are looking for a social media person. Two members, Carol & Valna volunteered. Lisl announced that we have Twitter, Facebook, MySpace, Coven Space, Witch Vox, and the Forum just to name a few. She will get together with Valna and Carol to get the information over to them.

Lisl stated that ordering from Café Press, Zazzle or Amazon will bring us monies.

Director of Records: Announced that the Accord is being improved on and that the membership will start seeing some of the changes in the near future.

STAFF REPORTS:

Marketing – Chris Laughing Wolf announced the new buttons that he has been asking members to take. The buttons say 'Ask Me About CMA I can introduce you'. They each have 30 marks around them. Each time a member comes to a workend or festival and introduces a newbie who you have personally invited and they are registered to the next event your name and their name will be put in our database and a slash mark will be put on your button. When you get 10 newbie's to join you can order any item from our webstore, 20 and you will get a T-shirt and your choice of merchandise from our webstore, 30 will get you a free ticket to the next event.

Land Manager: Land Manager report given by Gary on Chopper's behalf. Chopper has had the position for three months now and has a good vision. He did in three months what usually takes a year to get accomplished. The fence that has been put up was donated. The improvements on the shower house also donated. One of the membership offered to haul off anything that we needed hauled off property. Chopper is also in the process of scheduling work ends and projects to go through Samhain. Gary also announced that if you would like to help out please email Chopper at landmanager@magickal-arts.org.

Council Of Magickal Arts
Beltaine Great Works Minutes
April 17, 2011
Spirithaven

Mary Ellen announced that the Land Manager serves at the pleasure of the Board. His projects come from the board. If you have an issue you can come see the Board. He has done a great job.

Registrar: Gary stated that registration went well. We had 95% register on line which save us \$1200. He also stated that he is open to ideas for improvement so if you have suggestions please email him at tickets@magickal-arts.org. Natalie mentioned that the registration form does not have Central Texas listed.

CMA 1 and Community Service: Carol thanked all the great volunteers who showed up and helped out which made it possible for her to also enjoy the festival. She also announced that we had some awesome donations for our raffle. We also have some lost and found items. We are working on streamlining the community service process.

Front Gate: Killina announced that there was no drama and it was awesome. We had a little over 400 who signed in. We need to find a way to tag cars that have checked in already so that the front gate is aware when there are returning vehicles and not try to stop them. One of the new members offered to donate signage just let him know what we need.

Fire Crew: Skywise announced that while they did not get to work this festival they have big plans for Samhain.

Safety Staff: Liz announced that nobody died and no ambulance was called out! Liz also announced that we had two issues of vandalism. There were a few interpersonal issues among members but nothing serious. We are also growing our members of safety staff. The AC was not working in the Healing Station this time, the AC is there is just needs to be set up. We also had a few individuals leave site for health reasons, but all are well and we had no ambulances on site this festival. She thanked the guardians for their wonderful job during festival.

Youth Services: Calliope announced that all went well, the tweens had things to do and they all had fun. She will ask if any of the teens want to be involved in the rent a teen program next festival. She also stated that the teen camp wanted a teen liaison. The one that they had previously has aged out of the program.

Rowdy Recyclers: Natalie shared that recycling went well and that everything is already loaded on the trailer and will be taken offsite today when she leaves.

Happy Pagan Café – no report

Trolls: Trolls announced that they collected \$1400.

Photography Team: No report.

Venders: No report

OLD BUSINESS:

- Director of Records:
 - Voting Report – last festival the membership tasked me to test the online voting site. We did a mock voting on the site to test it. In the test we had our testers vote online, from their phone and we also included paper ballots. We are pleased to announce that the test went well. It is a secure site and the flexibility is great. We can pay for each election or we can pay by the year. Currently due to the number of members that we have who currently vote it would only cost us \$90 a year with tech support. A member asked if the site was user friendly for the visually impaired, the DOR promised to

Council Of Magickal Arts
Beltaine Great Works Minutes
April 17, 2011
Spirithaven

check on this. There was discussion on the topic and a member asked how much we spend on elections now and if this would save us money. The Registrar responded that currently we spent \$698.00 for the elections last year sending out ballots each year only few of those actually place their vote, and of those that are placed the majority of those are from members who pick up their ballots on site during festival. As many may recall from last Samhain we had announced that we at that time had 884 members who were mailed out ballots. Of those we had less than 1% returned which is a large expense to our corporation and the membership. Some discussion was had and it was decided that we would do one more test next election to allow the membership to experience firsthand how the site works. This would not be part of the official election since we were not voting on anything at today's meeting. At Samhain once the members had a chance to try the new electronic voting we would bring it before the membership for their vote. We would still be able to have our results in time for the Great Works meeting.

- Bylaws: We are happy to announce that we have gotten a rough draft in the works right now. Our focus has been to take the items that are policies and pull them out of the bylaws and our plan is that come Samhain we will have a proposal to bring before the membership that shows the new suggested Bylaws and the Policies for your approval

NEW BUSINESS:

⇒ Sacred Spaces:

- Mary Ellen announced that we had damage to our sacred space at Reveal Fire and that it will be repaired. She explained that it was vandalism; a small sledge hammer was used to chip away our fire ring. Another member announced that there have been several incidents at our Sacred Spaces, where altars were damaged and items either moved around or taken. There was discussion among the membership and it was decided that we would look at incorporating awareness training for our newbie's and we would look into restoring the tours that used to happen as well as making a video tour that could be added to the website. It was also decided that a Pagan Etiquette page would be added to the website. And all members were encouraged to take ownership for educating the new members that they bring to the festivals. There was also an offer from a member to make any signage that we needed as long as we provided him with the information that we wanted on the signs. One idea was that at the entrance to the property a sign be placed that says 'You are entering Sacred Space' since all of SpiritHaven is sacred to us.

During this discussion Mary Wolf announced that it had been discovered that vandalism had also been done to the standing stone in Grandmother's Grove. It had been 'tagged' by someone using colored hair spray. (By the end of the meeting a teen and his mother had volunteered to clean up the vandalism and it was completed by the ending of the Great Works meeting.)

- Council Oak: Mary Ellen announced to the membership that Council Oak has died and that we will be taking it down and the limbs will be used for the Revel fire at Samhain. We plan on leaving the trunk. Currently we are in contact with a person who does chain saw totems we are looking at having them do something with the part of Council Oak that we leave. This will not be decided on today. We just want to make you aware that Council Oak has passed and will need to be taken down before Samhain.

There were questions from the membership about taking some of the larger limbs and making items out of them for altar spaces and pieces for the membership to have for items such as wands, etc. Perhaps sell for a slight fee as a fund raiser. Mary Ellen stated that for now we just want the membership to think about

Council Of Magickal Arts
Beltaine Great Works Minutes
April 17, 2011
Spirithaven

this and that we will discuss it more later and make a decision about what to do with the stump at the Samhain Great Works meeting. At this time the topic will be tabled until Samhain.

- o Parking Fees: Blaze stated that we voted previously to charge \$25 to park on site. We need to know if the membership wishes to keep that fee at \$25 with exception to those who qualify under the ADA guidelines. We know that the membership voted on this policy before but we do not have any record of this vote in our minutes. If we cannot locate the previous minutes with this election notes in then we will need to have the vote taken again come Samhain to confirm that the membership is still in agreement. The \$25 will go towards the land. We just need to keep our corporate records up to date and current. If we cannot find it in the minutes we cannot just add it to them at this point.

KEY DECISIONS:

These key decisions were made at today's meeting:

- Electronic voting will be tested by the membership during Samhain.
- Decision will be made on what to do with Council Oak Trunk at Samhain.
- Fund Raising for the Gray Water will continue through next Sunday at which time it will be matched by 10% from a member. (After festival the same member contacted the Board and extended the time from till the end of the month.)

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

The following items need to be discussed at the next Great Works meeting on October 16th, 2011.

Based on today's meeting we hope to reach a decision concerning:

- Bylaw moving the ballot process to an electronic means.
- If previous minutes cannot be found regarding the memberships vote on the parking fees, they will be voted on during Samhain.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

It has been unanimously decided to take the following actions.

| ITEM | CHAMPION | DUE DATE |
|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Council Oak to be cut down. | Board & Land Manager | Samhain 2011 |
| Start of work on EECC Issues | Board, EECC | Ongoing |

A motion to close the meeting was passed unanimously.

Meeting closed at 1:36pm April 17th, 2011.