

Oak Spirit Sanctuary: General Council Meeting 1 August 2021

In attendance:

Board Members:

Patrick Finney (President)
 Joshua Kirby (Secretary)
 Dawn Finney (Treasurer)
 Kerry Easter--attended later in meeting
 Larry Brown--attended later in meeting

Advisory Board Members:

Frank Griggs
 Robyn Nall
 Chuck Cook
 Shannon Bagwell
 Madeline Wright

Meeting facilitator: Patrick Finney
 Recording secretary: Dawn Finney

Meeting called to order at: 19:05

Board or Relevant Organizational Activity since last meeting: July 11, 2021

Motions Passed since close of last meeting: 7/11/2021:

1) Frank Griggs Application for Advisory Board. Interview held 7/29/21 via Zoom interview. All members of General Council (members of board of directors and advisory board) were invited to participate. Frank was voted onto advisory board. Effective date: 8/1/21

1) Old Business:

- a) Madeline Wright has applied to the Board of Directors. An interview was opened using Facebook messenger and all General Council members were all invited to participate. During tonight's meeting 8/1/21, floor opened for any additional questions for Madeline via Zoom platform. Madeline answered questions posed by other advisory board members who had not been able to participate earlier.
- b) Voting to take place with the Board of Directors after this general meeting.
 [Additional note: Madeline Wright voted onto the Board of Directors, effective date: 8/1/21]

2) Departmental and Committee Reports

A) Land Management

Mowers:

1) Bad Boy mower--had been working fine. But battery was discovered dead 6/5/21. Dawn Finney took it to O'Reilly and had it recharged. Technician report stated it is in "last quarter of life." Battery reinstalled, and relays power, but mower won't catch and fully turn over.

2) John Deere mower--battery was also dead, but was recharged with home charger, reinstalled, and is working fine.

3) Chuck Cook: States these battery issues are common. Battery life is limited and when it behaves this way, likely solution is to get a new battery. Frank offers to handle battery purchase and replacement. Will provide receipt to treasurer for reimbursement or may opt to purchase as a donation. Report back to Chuck about battery replacement and give Chuck a call if new battery doesn't fix starting issue.

Mowing Area priorities:

1) Chuck Cook states: when we find ourselves in this position of low mowing ability due to a mower being down or low crew numbers, we may need to abandon certain areas based on the priority of use. This depends on what is needed event-wise.

2) Area around Moon Meadow a.k.a "Back 40," "Elysium Field"--typically lowest priority

At this point, events scheduled: may be just Orphanarium and they typically need mowing to power lines

3) Areas of higher priority: Area around retreat center, Main ritual circle area, Bardic circle, a bit into Hidden Meadow

4) Check with Taz Chance about areas needed for Samhain and mow those.

5) Madeline recently mowed some space near "U" in road and other areas. Dawn recently mowed ritual circle, half the field between ritual circle and the stage, and around retreat center road facing side. Patrick mowed Red Bud Circle (holding up ok) and field around house.

Scrap Metal:

1) Chuck called Jimmy about trailer frame in Moon Meadow. It has been there for about 24 months and is rusting out. Jimmy will scrap the metal and give some proceeds to OSS.

2) This was Chuck's plan: If stage wasn't built in 12 months from placement of frame, then scrap the metal.

Mosquito larvae control

Josh Kirby will purchase disks to and put into Lagoon and other areas of standing water, and submit receipts to treasurer for reimbursement.

Blue Trailer near Retreat Center

All were in favor of letting Jimmy scrap it to get it off the property. It is in poor, unsellable condition. (There was interest from one person in purchasing it and removing it from OSS grounds, but upon his inspection, it wasn't worth purchasing.)

Woodbusting

Question about how wood cutting works: Woodbusting is part of monthly work days, but low land maintenance crew involvement right now means this is currently not getting done. More priority is for mowing right now. Both wood splitters work. Intention would be to get back to woodbusting when possible.

B) Retreat Center

At last check in, Lunar 6/24/21 everything looked normal

Report of colony of Red Wasps nesting on porch which is a safety concern. Be careful if at the retreat center porch and perhaps someone on next work day can remediate wasp problem with sprays and careful removal.

C) Clergy

- 1) Patrick: States suggestion of formation of a Clergy Committee. Once formed the first order of business would be to discuss exactly what issues need to be addressed relating to ritual, community education, and the clergy program moving forward and report back to the Board.
- 2) Clergy Committee Created by consensus of those in meeting
Volunteers to be members: Frank Griggs, Madeline Wright, Joshua Kirby, Kerry Easter, Patrick Finney, and other members to be solicited for joining
- 3) Patrick will create Facebook group
- 4) Request for document Articles of Incorporation/ Charter--Provide document to Advisory board which Patrick worked on updating and will upload to AB page. This is to review language about religious education.

D) Oak Scouts

Naiya Jones and Josh Kirby haven't met yet but plan to get together for discussing Oak Scouts activities and plans for Harvest Homecoming.

E) Financial

August 1st marks the start of the new fiscal year for OSS. Dawn Finney is in the process of getting the annual financial report completed for Fiscal Year 2020 to 2021 (deadline is by Harvest Homecoming church meeting).

Monthly Bill Report

Bank account balance: \$5593.13
 Monthly transfer of Paypal balance: 103.11
 Total for top of month balance: \$5696.24

Bills paid and other debits for the month (thus far):

- 1) CoMo Electric: 72.00
- 2) Waste Management: 50.00
- 3) Zoom: 14.99
- 4) Front Lot Loan: 228.62
- 5) Brad Wooldridge: 50.00
- 6) Well Repair Loan #1: 100.00
- 7) Well Repair Loan #2: 100.00
- 8) Bank Service fee for billpay: 6.95
- 9) Schnell Drilling: 300.00 (2nd payment)

Well Repair #2 Electric:

- 1) The total of the second well repair was \$4220.00. OSS pays \$3014.28 and other Renaissance Ridge owners total share comes to: \$1205.72. Sent Schnell a first payment check in late June that hasn't cleared yet. Photocopied the carbon with a note about this and will send with second payment
- 2) Renaissance Ridge dwellers who have paid their portion of this repair are Jan Cohen and David Silvey. David Heidlage called and will be sending payments. Mailing Bob James second request for payment. (Frank Griggs has no well access so the responsibility for payment lies with the Heidlages since the well access is on their half.)

Mower maintenance: Anticipate some costs for taking care of Bad Boy mower. Battery was charged but still won't start.

F) Fundraising

- 1) Nothing planned at this time
- 2) Will consider small fundraising push around Harvest?
- 3) Art Auction for Harvest Homecoming planned

G) Legal

- 1) [Redacted on advisement of attorney due to legal matters still in progress.]
- 2) Land Deeds: Discovery by Brad Wooldridge that property deeds are titled to "Ozark Avalon." Brad can help us change title names to OSS later after court case is completed.
- 3) Cemetery Plots
 - a) According to Cooper County, Cemetery plot is mis-designated. Needs to be corrected. Plots 10 and 12 are the Green Cemetery. 12 is listed as burial site but it should be 10.
 - b) The Green Cemetery idea was something Rose Wise and friends came up with for community members. Only one person's whole body, Diana, is buried out there.
 - c) OSS Bylaws state that Oak Spirits are allowed to be buried there.
 - d) However, there are regulatory issues of running Green Cemeteries properly in compliance with the Department of Health and Human services which OSS is not currently able to do. It would be costly and complicated to run a Green Cemetery properly.
 - e) Agreement that human bodies may no longer be buried in the cemetery area.
 - f) Suggestion made for Oak Spirits to be able to spread ashes in the Cemetery
 - g) Table Cemetery Issue future topic. Will be added to Policy group as well.

H) Outreach / Social Media

- 1) Larry Brown--Will ask Chrysalis Moon site scouts not to come in August for OSS visit. Does not want them to waste time and money on this travel since OSS can't accommodate their event due to cost of electrical upgrade issues.
- 2) Larry hasn't been contacting any other event planners.
- 3) Social Media: Discuss idea later (maybe in new clergy committee) social media can be used for Year and a Day classes and would fulfill Church's charter for educational offerings.

3) Events

- 1) Review of Calendar and OSS events for rest of year:

August

Work weekend 6-7
 Orphanarium 13-14
 Lunar 21

September

Harvest Homecoming 4-5 --Discussion about HH being a live, in-person event or virtual.
 Decision made to have HH be an onsite, live event. Need to start working on event in the HH Planning Group immediately
 Work weekend/Mabon/Lunar 18

October

Work Weekend 9-10

Samhain 23

November

Work Weekend: November 6 Frog Bog will be closed

Lunar 20th

December

Work Weekend: 11th Retreat Center work. Advised to get head of mouse problem

Yule 18th

- 2) Begin to set dates for next year's calendar so this can be published at Harvest Homecoming meeting 2021-- Kerry, Kirby, Madeline will work on next year's calendar as a group.
- 3) COVID concerns: Discuss Policy-- in HH Planning Group
Kerry wrote a COVID policy for Orphanarium, will be posted to AB page
- 4) Any outside rentals on the horizon? Larry offers to contact groups to see if they have events that could be hosted at OSS.

4) Special Projects

Policy Review and Revision

- 1) Policy Group had its first meeting. Robyn Nall chairs this group.
- 2) First document for review are the Bylaws last updated in 2017
- 3) Major issue with board of directors is term limits; which is a sore spot among some community people due to confusion and lack of clarity
 - a) These have been operating on an "understood decision" but this is not documented. This decision was made in a "point-of-need," ad hoc meeting which occurred in blue cabin. Jenn Asbury was secretary and wrote down on paper which may, possibly, still be in the blue cabin in Kerry's desk or elsewhere. Suggestion that if Jenn, Jade, and others who were present could confirm this decision--would this be allowable? Strong opinion that this would not be valid way to handle issue of missing documents.
 - b) Legal obligation to use board terms as outlined in Bylaws currently in use. So, if these notes cannot be found, OSS needs to abide by the 2017 terms of board limits.
 - c) Agreement to allow Kerry a chance to find these notes from the meeting during the cabin cleanout in next two weeks. If these notes are not found, the 2017 Bylaws as written will be observed.
- 4) Idea presented that when applicable, a poll or survey could be presented to community to gather input for changes they may like to see with policy.

Membership Organization vs Non-membership Organization? Community Input on Voting?

A Discussion:

- 1) Question regarding Oak Spirits getting to vote?
- 2) Bylaws currently state that OSS is not a membership organization.
- 3) How to get community input on Oak Spirits on board elections without a vote?
- 4) Discussion: Many other organizations have voting membership that elect board members. However, there can be issues of politics with campaigning: you must make sure to take care of

loopholes of any individuals electioneering to get unsavory people on board. In some groups electioneering is not allowed.

5) Idea to take nominations from community to invite involvement and placement onto first the Advisory Board and after time frame of AB membership, (currently 6 months) AB member can be nominated to BOD.

6) Where to put this process? Should not be in Bylaws, could be in "Policies." Bylaw should state something more general like: " advisory input from Oak Spirits, and details in Policy."

7) Question: Point of contention: Instead of BOD doing electing, AB does elections to the board?

8) Concerns about having a "membership" system: In nonprofit management: Example of Sierra Club: why nonprofits should consider not having membership: Sierra Club infiltrated by energy interests and they tried to take control of board by working the membership system. Also consider numbers needed for quorum and proxy voting--this is often difficult to get and presents obstacles which restrict getting necessary business done.

9) Another example where "membership" organization proved difficult: HSA--Heartland Spirit Alliance had voting members and the board became at risk of complete overturn because of electioneering.

10) Idea: Could community be polled to have one single vote? There should be some way to assess community input.

11) Agreement to adhere to current bylaws regarding OSS being structured as a non-membership organization, yet consider ways to involve the community more in input/ opinion gathering/ decision making.

Any other new business / Miscellaneous

1) Blue Cabin Cleanout and Contract

- a) Kerry and family/ crew intend to come out to clean out the blue cabin in the next two weekends or so and relinquish occupancy.
- b) Contract needs to be reviewed to make sure it is followed as written regarding state of cabin.
- c) Contract was uploaded to Advisory Board page for informational review

2) Green Man Ceramic Art Piece donated

Kirby's friend made a lovely Green Man ceramic mask that can be hung at a place of his choosing

3) Organ in hallway at OSS--sell on Marketplace. Frank offers to help with this. Patrick can pass along photos.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting: Time: 9:17 PM