

# FLOAT CONFERENCE

## Board Meeting #33 June 2, 2020 | 2 pm - 3:30 pm PST

### *Quorum Present*

#### **Present:**

- Ashkahn Jahromi (President) / Graham Talley
- Jesse Ratner-Decle
- James Harder
- Roy Vore
- Kim Hannan
- Jocelyn Jester (Operations Team)

#### **Absent:**

- Gloria Morris (Secretary)
- Andy Larson (Treasurer)
- Jake Resch / Kevin McCulloch
- Matthew Smith / Jamie Phillips
- Sean Lavery

#### **Agenda:**

1. **Vote to approve last meeting's minutes (Official Vote)**
2. **New board meeting time?**
3. **To Hybrid Conference or to Virtual Conference - July 15 decision**
4. **Update from Committees**
5. **Virtual Event Platform Test - Whova**

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### **1 - Vote to Approve Last Meeting's Minutes**

**Vote on Minutes from May 6 meeting:** *Unanimous Approval*

### **2 - New Board Meeting Times**

Based on the changes to literally everything, Jocelyn is going to send out a new Doodle Poll to try to come up with a new time for our Board Meetings. Please try to fill that out in a timely manner so that we can get a new time set up quickly.

### **3 - To Hybrid or to Virtual Conference - July 15 decision**

In the Fun Police! Meeting, we talked about when to aim to make a decision about if we can have an in person conference or a fully virtual event. We came up with mid-July based on finding balance between

the need for more information and the time we will need to set up either type of event. We wanted to check in to make sure everyone feels comfortable with this timing. General agreement.

#### **4 - Updates from Committees**

##### **Sponsorships**

The Sponsorship team has been chatting about what changes we will need to make and talking through what options we will have for a hybrid or fully virtual event. We've talked through some options that we will have for digital sponsorships. Since it is currently unclear how many attendees we will have either in person or virtually, and we don't know what platform we will use for the digital aspect, it's hard to make any final decisions right now. We will continue to keep potential sponsors updated and will move forward once we have enough information.

##### **Marketeers**

This group didn't have much to talk about and therefore hasn't met since the last board meeting - Jocelyn will connect with them this week to get rolling on updates based on changes to the conference.

##### **Fun Police!**

We talked a bit about the virtual event platforms - which Jocelyn sent in a spreadsheet with notes. Originally, we thought attendees would be able to create a character and wander around in some of the more expensive platforms - which turns out to not be the case. Fun Police! Officers agreed that the 3D feel isn't worth all the extra money, so we narrowed it down to the platforms that feel more like a forum. Jocelyn is working on getting to know these different options to have a better understanding of which one will work best.

Another thing we discussed was making a fully virtual event more accessible to attendees by spreading out the sessions. We understand it's pretty difficult to sit at a computer all day, plus people are more likely to still be working. We also want to make sure international attendees are able to participate at somewhat normal times in their time zone.

##### **Speaker Society**

We had decided not to close speaker applications during the peak of the pandemic and stay at home orders. Since the full board met last, the speaker society chose to close speaker applications on May 31. We will plan to clean up this list and talk through it on our next full board meeting.

Additionally, we talked about the speaker voting, or attendees choice voting. We are thinking we won't have time to do this the way we have in the past. We are hoping to come up with an alternative to this system.

##### **Activities**

Activities are on hold until we know a bit more about what platform we will use and if we will do a hybrid or virtual event. One thing we have been thinking about is making sure in person activities are accessible to virtual attendees.

##### **Podcast**

Jocelyn has been working to organize and clean up the recordings from the IRIS conferences that Tom Fine gave us. We should be able to start releasing these soon!

## **5 - Virtual Event Platforms - Whova, Accelevents, Pathable**

Again, Jocelyn has been working on researching and working with some virtual event platforms to see which might work best for us. As these things tend to go, so far each platform has its pros and cons.

Here's a few of the things we are looking for:

- Making sure sponsorship opportunities are ample, simple, and visible. Plus lead retrieval would be a plus.
- Networking - we would like to see plenty of opportunities for organic and spontaneous conversations. We would love to have a way for people to join group conversations about various topics, and to have just casual conversation.
- Sessions should be easy to attend, plus we want people to be able to ask questions and chat with other attendees.
- A user friendly, and cost effective platform is ideal.

If we can't find a platform that meets our needs, we may look at piecing a few different things together. Graham recently hosted a birthday party on Discord and that went really well.

## **6 - Closing Comments**

We will meet again in about a month - remember to look for the Doodle poll to choose a new meeting time.

**Next Meeting: July 1, at 2:00 - 3:30 pm PST**

*Meeting Adjourned: 3:15 pm*