

FLOAT CONFERENCE

Board Meeting #23
October 23, 2019 | 2 pm - 3:30 pm PST

Quorum Present

Present:

- Ashkahn Jahromi (President) / Graham Talley
- Gloria Morris (Secretary)
- Kevin McCulloch / Jake Resch
- Matthew Smith
- Sean Lavery / Jesse Ratner-Decle
- James Harder
- Roy Vore (Incoming Board Member)
- Kim Hannan (Incoming Board Member)
- Tom Fine (Incoming Board Member)
- Jocelyn Jester (Operations Team)
- Esther Paul (Operations Team)

Absent:

- Andy Larson (Treasurer)
 - Jamie Phillips
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Agenda:

1. **Vote to approve last meeting's minutes (Official Vote)**
 2. **General updates**
 3. **Paying Kevin/Jake, and James Harder (Official Vote)**
 4. **City submissions for next year**
 5. **Dates for next year's conference**
 6. **Conference schedule structure for next year**
 7. **Anyone interested in taking on a bigger role in the conference?**
 8. **Closing Comments**
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1 - Vote to Approve Last Meeting's Minutes

Vote on Minutes from Oct 8 meeting: *Unanimous Approval*

2 - General Updates

No updates!

3 - Paying Kevin/Jake, and James Harder (Official Vote)

When Ashkahn was talking to our lawyer last year, they mentioned that we should make decisions for any board members being paid for work outside of their standard board duties, we should vote on that compensation as a board.

Kevin and Jake helped out as the Executive team and we discussed paying them a small amount and included enough to help cover some of their travel and lodging.

Vote on Paying Kevin and Jake: *Unanimous Approval*

We also were paying James an hourly rate for the work that he did selling sponsorships. It meant a lot to us to have his help with this and we really want to make sure that he feels our appreciation.

Vote on continuing to Pay James: *Unanimous Approval*

4 - City submissions for next year

We had a good number of submissions and we are pretty excited to start looking at this.

To start narrowing down this list, does anyone feel like we should be trying to do this event outside of the US? Ashkahn and Jocelyn think that the extra logistics is not such a good idea with our current standing. General agreement was shared. It is interesting to note that there were several submissions from Australia.

We also had some people that submitted for cities that they don't live in or listed that they don't want to be the liaison. We cut these people out.

Ashkahn opens it up to comments from those that feel strongly about a certain city.

Gloria is interested in bringing the conference to **Chicago** - she mentions that Chicago has good infrastructure set up for conferences. Ease of travel, fairly inexpensive, and plenty of interest.

James is interested in bringing the conference to **Portland, ME**. "Portland to Portland." There are some concerns that people would end up in the wrong Portland. Portland is small, but has great food, great beer, and everything you would want. James and Amy are very active in their community and have a lot of great connections in the area. James and Amy really think they can bring back some of the whimsical aspects of the conference that people were missing - like food trucks. James thinks having it on the East coast would be a good way to make the conference more accessible to people in Europe and in the East. Tourism season might make this area a bit more expensive during the summer time.

- Ashkahn asks if James has concerns about his personal workload if he is on the board, doing sponsorships, and being the city liaison. James is 110% on board with making this work.

- Ashkahn asks about the airport - there is a small international airport, but also a train from Boston to Portland.
- James mentions hotels with conference spaces and some stand alone venues that would be fun.

Next, we talked through some other cities and made some notes. We narrowed it down to our top 3. We are going to move forward with looking into Portland, ME; Milwaukee, WI; and Chicago, IL.

5 - Dates for next year's conference

We need to decide if we want to stick with September or move back to August.

Chicago and Milwaukee, and Portland are both hit or miss with weather.

Jocelyn heard several comments that people couldn't attend because of school/sports/kids. Ashkahn said that in the past people had mentioned that they couldn't make it because of family vacations and weddings.

Salt Therapy Association conference is usually in early September. (Their dates are not listed on their website yet.)

It's been decided to choose one week in August, one in Sept, and one in Oct to see if there are price variations between the dates.

6 - City Submissions for Next Year

We (Operations team) talked in depth last year about restructuring the schedule of the conference, by mixing Friday Activities into the main conference sessions. We decided not to mix it up in 2019 because it would have created a big workload to restructure our schedule, website, and graphics, and there could be some unforeseen problems. If we are looking at doing something like this, we would put together a smaller group to work out a proposal.

Kim offers a suggestion of adding table discussions, which would facilitate more networking and small engagement.

Tom suggests that it makes sense to put together a subcommittee and bring some ideas to the table. Ashkahn likes this idea and will see if he can put together a brainstorm meeting for this.

7 - Closing Comments

One of Ashkahn's main goals for the structure of the conference this year is to strengthen the functionality and transferability of the conference. He would love for it to be easier for people to be able to flow in and out of the conference. Some ways to do this include some redundancies. If anyone on the board is interested in having a bit more of a hands on approach to the conference - they should reach out to Ashkahn to start working on this. Roy is interested! Kim is interested in helping with design stuff.

Ashkahn is also still looking for someone to take over as President within the next few years. He's working to make this position much less hands on as we shift some more work to the operations team.

Next Meeting: November 6 from 2-3:30 pm PST

Meeting Adjourned: 3:15 pm