

General Meeting Notes

Jan 19, 2025

Attended:

Sami Kammeyer -
Alyx Lechner - virtual
Nate Mottle -
Charlie Naddeo -
Sarah Roh - virtual
Cassandra Petersen - virtual
Victor Albisharat - virtual
Annastasia Gallaher -
Ashley LaBreck -
Shane Rideout -
Mychal Thompson-
Tobias McCurry - virtual
Dan Weiner -
Shannon Murphy - virtual
Cassius Deutsch - virtual
Alex Cassett - virtual

Absent:

Mitch Brackett
Renee Naddeo
Topher Fultz

Presiding Officer: Nate Mottle

Start Time: 1:02 p.m.

- Opening/Welcome - Chair/VC
- Announcements from the board/officers if any?

Departmental Reports -

- Operations - IT: Barry indicates to email him once he has IT request form sent out, attendee asked about any major IT changes - switching to digital format for sign in/sign out
Julian asked about cartographer, Mitch is working on this



- Programming - Status report: everything going well - looking for panel mod applicants. Panel's Office Coordinator - recommends panel mod for anyone unsure of where they'd like to staff.

Attendee asked: Any existing plans to do any cosplay meetups? Mychal indicated he will note this to cosplay manager, Janet.

Karaoke Idol contest is open as of yesterday. Smooth sailing.

Ember: if you have a room that needs more foot traffic, email hunt@sakuracon.org or ceremonies@sakuracon.org and they will assist.

Record number of panels, over 340.

Attendee question: Will there be a major map entailing each panel? Shane advised it will be in the digital app and a large sign at the bottom of Summit which is in process.

Attendee question: will signage system change to fully digital as well, shared concerns of digital read boards not working. Anna advised she will review.

Attendee question: is there going to be a big physical map? Anna advised part of signage project. Membership -

- Membership - Rolling out many apps/new system including new staff site. Working to get open within the next couple weeks. Ensuring we are 100% ready to open after some testing. Will get announced from directors to their staff. May open on per director basis. Reg open for attendees, last price bump is at the end of January. Crunching on merch, exhibit hall, artist alley. Almost all departments are hiring coordinators. Overall, heads down getting things done! Reach out to membership for any qs.

Attendee q: Is there discount code for coords. Dan advises he will cover in his update.

Attendee q: when new staff site goes live, what info do I put in? Anna advises that is up to each individual, will not do any sign up by proxy due to PII concerns. Intuitive compared to cervis. This will go out via a link.

Attendee q: Unlike Cervis, Will there be a field for preferred names/deadname? Anna advised there will be.

Coords and Directors will approve staffers via email.

Attendee Q: Can you apply for multiple volunteer positions? Answer is no. No cross departmental staffing, verbiage will be included for this.

You do not need to be an assistant coord to be a coord. Reach out for the positions you'd like to volunteer for.

- Relations -

Guest bookings on track.

Most relations positions are 18+, some are 21+ , requires a lot more hours - email relations@sakuracon.org for questions

Will there be any vtubers this year? Tobias advises yes-ish. There will be vtuber appearances but not direct bookings – apart from a Guest of Honor - who is also a vtuber (AmaLee aka Monarch), but her booking at con is primarily for anime voice acting.

- Publicity -

Rebranded marketplace to community central, links up 1/19

Billboards from last year are coming back

We touch grass team up for Sakura Con party

Attendee q: mariner's shirt collab? Sarah advises yes there will be one. Tickets are live, announcement has just not been made. Date of collab game will be Sunday before convention, April 13th against Texas Rangers

- Facilities -

Hotels opened earlier - end of October, 5 are closed and 4 are still open. 2 with lowest rates, have the most rooms available. Attendee hotel link is available on the website. Staff discount link will be resent to staff by email or ask your director.

Attendee q: applied for hotel booking but was told Thursday is waitlisted, Dan explains if there are cancellations the wait list is gone through first come first serve but ultimately means no rooms are available for the night requested.

If you need a hotel room, please book sooner rather than later.

Attendee question: is there a standard place to expect communications?

If you are on staff, it will come from directors/general communication on the website/email.

Doc advised they didn't receive comms - Tobias indicated that was due to abrupt staffing issues in publicity and Anna advised there hasn't been further comms apart from 1 after Sakura Con 2024.

- Membership Comments and Ideas - none

General Questions:

Attendee: Accessibility questions, believes there should be an accessibility manager/coordinator. Managing accommodation requests, bring up once more bus system between buildings? Alyx advises there have been ongoing conversations within the board regarding accessibility, instructs to please send suggestions to the board for review. Has there been any progress on bus between buildings? Alyx advised there was a previous setup but it wasn't useful due to pick up and drop off points. Reiterates to send suggestions to chair@sakuracon.org. Email publicity@sakuracon.org for accessibility related needs regarding schedules etc.

Hotels: Possibility of giving assistant coordinators hotels? Any arrangement that can be reached for this in the future? Dan advises there is somewhat a work in progress for this but he needs numbers to propose to the hotels in order to approach negotiations for this. There are also case by case basis that can be petitioned to the relative director.

Attendee Qs: Will comments and suggestions panel be brought back this year?

Alyx advises it will not this year, and was discontinued last year due to lack of inclusivity and general feeling of non-productivity. Will be noting this for future con years.

Bylaws on website are outdated - Alyx advised Bylaws will be updated this week or next on the website.

Requested lower tech version of schedule due to attendees lack of access to web or apps while onsite - Tobias agreed to facilitate

Alyx advised the move to a digital format was to cut down waste from the event as there was a large amount.

Is there an accessibility based role on the board? Not at this time. Alyx suggested to sent to chair@sakuracon.org with suggestions/ideas.

- Adjournment - motion to adjourn 2:07pm