

Future
Venues**Karen Ellis**

From: "Lynn Owens-Whalen" <lowens- [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED].t>
To: <wngga [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED].t>; <huw.will [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED].t>; <aupshall [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED].t>
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2004 6:22 PM
Subject: Re: Fwd: Future Venues Committee

Hi John,

I would think that it may not be worthwhile for me to spend time in Toronto. Yes ? No ? I am thinking no. Alan is right ... the airport area in Toronto is not really a great location.

Did we come up with a list of criteria for choosing a site ? I know that we chatted about it but perhaps we should review that when looking at these sites.

Also, I do have reservations about signing any contracts with venues beyond Orlando until after Buffalo. My reservations are all financial ! From what I can understand, Buffalo has some sponsorship money but not alot. Unless as an organization the WNGGA not only embraces sponsorship but also commits to getting it in the future, future NAFOWs in my mind are regrettably very much at risk.

Had Richmond not raised the amount of sponsorship money it did, we would have lost money. We did not.

Harrisburg which is in the heart of the NA Welsh population it is said, lost significant money. Welsh heritage population is only a part of the package our history tells us that. So, my suggestion is to go ahead with planning and I appreciate your work, John. However, we need to proceed very cautiously for reasons I have indicated above.

Lynn

4/10/2004

Future Venues
FORWARD TO ME

Karen Ellis

From: <huw.willia[REDACTED]@net>
To: "WNGGA" <wngga[REDACTED]>
Cc: <lowens-w[REDACTED]>; "Alan Upshall" <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2004 11:12 AM
Attach: Future Venues.eml
Subject: Re: Future Venues

John: There should not be a problem with planning out at least three years provided we do not put ourselves into a position that adversely effects our financial standing. What we need to try and do is know were we are going and make the down payment in September after the current years NAFOW has taken place. Huw

4/12/2004

FUTURE VENUES
FORWARD TO ME

Karen Ellis

From: "Lynn Owens-Whalen" <lowe...>
To: <huw.william...>
Cc: "WNGGA" <wng...>; "Alan Upshall" <alup...>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2004 10:04 PM
Subject: Re: Future Venues

Hello all,

I agree. My concern re: long term planning for the NAFOW sites is purely financial in terms of putting our name on the dotted line. As an organization, we have not embraced to the point of full acceptance with the notion of sponsorship. To date, only Richmond has been truly successful in this regard and this is in no means a criticism of others. Rather it is a learning process but the WNGGA needs to acknowledge that this is ONLY way that we are going to be able to make the NAFOW truly viable as the major fundraiser for the organization. So I agree with you all that slow and cautious is the best approach. If we have sufficient information to plan on 2006 and 2007 sites, then we should be okay if we decide even on 2006 after we know the extent of the financial success of Buffalo. Your cautions about waiting are very well founded, John. On the other hand, if we go through another experience as we did two years ago, the WNGGA may very well be bankrupt. I really worry about that.

In terms of Toronto, I do know Toronto fairly well and the airport area very well as I fly through that 'hub' to Atlantic Canada and Ontario a minimum of twice a year. It is not a particularly pleasant area and is far from any interesting shopping / tourist / part etc. etc. location. It is primarily a functional airport area with accommodation for those on the move and commercial and semi commercial facilities. In this regard, I agree with Alan's earlier comments. My personal knowledge of Toronto says that a suburb would be best Whitby, Missasauga (sp?), Brampton, Oshawa, etc. which is the same reality for many other urban centres. Cost is the issue. This is why San Jose instead of San Francisco; Bellevue rather than Seattle; Richmond rather than Vancouver etc.

So, I am willing but not optimistic in terms of quality time for a quality find ! So, if you feel that the information that you have is well grounded John, what I will do is a cursory look and check out my assumptions rather than spend a whole day in that area. I hope that this is helpful.

We have chatted about criteria to consider when locating a site. If we can agree on some of these, I would be pleased to create a chart so we can visually stack the venues up against one another. To begin, what about a list like this. Please add, delete, modify as you see fit

Considerations:

1. size of the Welsh heritage population base
2. associated Welsh organizations in the vicinity to provide support and volunteer help
3. WNGGA BOT representation with relatively easy access to the site
4. the potential to expand knowledge in the community about Wales and Welsh culture
5. a 'draw' for people to travel to the area (ie. tourist potential)
6. suitable venues for all Festival activities
7. support of Tourist Bureaus, civic and community organizations
- 8.

Please continue.

Lynn

4/13/2004