

Good evening

Sorry to be a bit late but life is busy down here. for this first meeting I am going to cut and paste in the minutes into this email. I work in Word 2000 and many cannot open files made in this. Let me know if you can it would be easier to make attachments. Helen and Lynn I don't think that you have yet circulated your communication details to the rest of the group. As it says in there, Ellen Webber has declined the invitation. For our marketing person, I think Don Murray would be a very good choice.

thanks

alan

Minutes of meeting of Festival of Wales 2003
Richmond Inn Richmond BC
Sunday 10 June 2001

Present: Neville Thomas, David Lintern, Helen Steinle, Gerri Baker Parry, Lynn Owens Whalen, Alan Upshall (Chairman).

This was the first meeting of the planning group for the Festival of Wales and Gymanfa Ganu to be held in Richmond BC in 2003.

It is to be noted that the name normally encountered with this weekend is the North American Gymanfa Ganu. Whilst the gymanfa ganu is still the essential component of the weekend, we are describing this at this time as the festival of Wales. Permission will have to be gained from the WNGGA and this will be sought (along with some other changes).

The meeting primarily was an orientation meeting to put the strategy in place and to discuss some options. No responsibilities were delegated and it was agreed to increase the size of the group up to 9. It was also agreed that some good computer skills were needed. The main message was to "think outside the box".

Traditionally, the contents of the weekend have been standard with some minor variation. Also traditionally, the Wales tourist board has supported the weekend but this now has to be based on something more than charity. We have to be seen to be doing something to raise the awareness of Wales in the general population with a "heads on pillows approach" to justify any support. Alan has had some contact with the WTB and intends to follow this up.

This year in San Jose the group has worked hard to invite the Welsh development agency and the Welsh Assembly to come over. We should try to emulate this approach in Canada in 2003 and Alan again through his contact will push this ahead a little. Once this groundwork has been done, then we can pass the responsibility.

For both of the above, someone with marketing skills would be very useful on the committee.

There is no need to worry about registration, this will be handled by the WNGGA international headquarters. However, we do have to have the program in place ready for the compilation of the registration form by January 2003. A preliminary list of deadlines were handed out:

June 30 2001: Committee in place, responsibilities assigned
 July 31 2001: Contract with hotels signed
 July 31 2001: Contract with School district signed
 August 20 2001: Presentation to WNGGA board in San Jose
 December 31 2001: General program and budget in place
 Presented to PSWA, CSV, VWS.
 April 2002: Update to board in Ontario
 July 2002: Program complete ready for advertising in Harrisburg
 Labor Day 2003: Full presentation and booth in Harrisburg
 January 2003: Registration package information
 Event: August 28-31 2003

While it will not be necessary for us to all go to San Jose, we should make every effort to go to Harrisburg in 2002 where we will have a booth and sign up areas.

There was a lot of discussion about how we can attract youth and devise an original program, but these will be brought up in the next meeting where the provisional program will be outlined.

As to new members: Jen Pearson and Maggie Nixon from Victoria, John Pritchard and Eifion Thomas and Don Murray from Vancouver and Steve Ensley, Ellen Webber and Brian Parry from Seattle were suggested. It is important that we pick people for their skills. It is also important that we originate ideas on how the local societies can work with us. Alan will write to each and attend a meeting of each. He will ask for an interest free loan and in return the local societies will share some of the profits (perhaps split 25% between them). (I would like to make this as different as possible from the Bellevue committee)

(Addendum FYI, Ellen Webber has declined) but has offered her support in a subcommittee.

We also will need a secretary.

The Hotel has sent a first pass contract, which Alan and Lynn will work on and negotiate with the hotel. Lynn will get the contract from the school district for the concert and gymnasium venue.

The next meeting will be at the hotel on August 19th by which time the committee will be complete and when we will spend the time putting together the event ideas. Plan to spend most of the day.