December 2016 Board Meeting!

**Message from the President:**

We want to make a land decision before the end of the year. Ignition members are visiting the Trinidad land on Jan. 15, 2016. Trinidad seems to be the better option, in terms of medical services because there is greater proximity and access to larger facilities. The land in Walden sounds beautiful, but will use a large part of the budget to get the land ready and accessible for medical personnel. There is also a very small window to prepare the land before the snow comes and there are a lot of improvements that need to be made, such as building roads and grading the land. The Rangers are working on making contact with the Sheriff in Trinidad as we speak. A permit process application has been sent out to the board for review. There is no one that is tasked with permitting at this time.

There is a question about how much we can rely on our own community for emergency services. This was one barrier to holding the event last year and we need to assess whether we have this department staffed or not. An organization, such as Groove Medical, would be a viable resource to rely upon for the safety of the event being carried out.

Nine natural gas wells are present on the Trinidad property and were cause for objection by some attendees present. Requests have been made for verification and documentation of the safety of the wells. The wells are very clearly marked and the land owner has assured us that there is no danger, but a conversation will be initiated with the Trinidad Fire Marshall about this issue.

**Message from the Vice President:**

The theme contest opened last week! That will continue for two weeks and then Ignition will vote! Then the art contest will begin!

**Message from the Treasurer:**

The basic bare bones budget is based on 2015 and a 2,000 person population cap and budgets are due Jan 8, 2016. Moss reports that the budgets for 2016 may not be able to build upon 2015 because a lot of financial weight was thrown at departments to build them out and that does not seem feasible to proceed with this year. The Treasurer reports that a good target for departments is, on average, about half of what it was last year.

Financial policy needs to be established on what is and is not an approved expense and how to reimburse appropriately. Expenses have legal constraints and we need to function within that constraint but there will be more strict guidelines put forth on documentation and deadlines to reign in unnecessary expenditures.

**Message from the Secretary:**

We still need to meet with the attorney to get contracts started for next year!

**Old Business:**

Ground Control Retreat: The agenda will be released next week. An RSVP form will be sent out to Ignition.

**New Business:**

DPW has two new Ignition positions: Manager on Duty (MoD) and Strike, both are XXXOs! There were 2 XXXO positions that were in place in previous years and these have been restructured. These two positions are new XXXO positions.

Sparks Voting Rights: Sparks have voting rights for the theme and ticket art contests! GO SPARKS!

Budget Process: Emails have been sent out to Ignition soliciting for budgets with a flexible submission date of January 8, 2016.

Event Dates: The land decision will have a lot of bearing on the dates that are appropriate to plan the event. If Trinidad is chosen, dates will remain very much the same as previous years. A Walden choice will force the event dates to be later in the summer.

New Position: Recruitment Liaison: someone tasked with following up and signing on interested volunteers and keep Telemetry in the loop and updated with needs. This position could be a Spark role, however, this would be a year round position and would, therefore, fall into the Ignition category. The Board of Directors has a lot to do, that’s for sure. It’s always a good thing when they can focus more on helping the Apogaea Organization run more smoothly and delegate these kinds of things to Ignition and Sparks. That’s what we’re here for, right?!

There are many lead roles that we need to fill really soon:

DMV needs to be filled! We may get to have art cars at the land in Trinidad! WOOT!

Rangers are making some exciting changes that will result in greater longevity, less burnout and less stress! The lead position will be split between three people to increase coverage, and limit bottleneck! Awesome! Effectively, they are eliminating the XXXO position and adding two more co-lead positions. Built into this new structure is succession planning, as well. They will now be referred to as the Troicha, a word of Eastern European origin referring to an administrative body consisting of three individuals working as one. The TROIKA!!! That has a sort of ring to it, huh?

Not only that but the Rangers are developing a living document that will allow Rangers to grow and change organically to meet the needs of the community and event. Ranger Khakis’ roles are evolving as well. They will now have year-round responsibilities and more succession planning. They will be encouraged to work in pairs and the bar is being raised to meet new Ignition role needs.

There were many more Ignition ratifications!!

* Kemo: Graphic Design (AMP)
* Kemo: Manager (DPW)
* Caroshine: Ranger Khaki/Lead
* Eldo: Ranger Khaki
* Ronica: Ranger Khaki/Lead
* Lavendyr: Ranger Khaki/Lead
* Campi: Land Search
* Chris Dobell: Volunteer DB Lead
* Deb Pika: Cat Herder XXXO
* Guywire: Census/Ember Reports/Polling/Elections
* Tim Collins: Budget Lead
* Tater Zoid: Lamplighters XXXO

WELCOME!! Apogaea is lucky and glad to have you on the team!

Mariah has organized her Council of Darkness (5 DPW leads). Lamplighters are moving forward and are working to complete the projects that they were working on last year.

Luki was interviewed by the Communications team and this is going to go live very soon on social media, as well as, his Bio page on the website! Check it out! Telemetry will be working very closely with AMP to do more video interviews with other board members and granted artists!

There is talk that there may be a contest to design our new city and road names!! Keep your eyes peeled and come to board meetings for more information and get your voice heard!