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Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

Board of Directors Meeting Conference Call Regarding Nashville Expo Proposal for 2027

August 19, 2024, 7:00 pm Central

President Michael Seeliger called the conference call to order at approximately 7:00 pm.

Present: Michael Seeliger, President
Alice Seeliger, Secretary
Ferdinand Meyer V, Director-at-Large
Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager/Membership Director (joined at #6)
Eric McGuire, Western Region Director
John O'Neill, Director-at-Large
Richard Siri, Director-at-Large
Craig Cassetta, Conventions Director
Charlie Martin, Northeast Region Director
Tom Lines, Southern Region Director
Brian Bingham, Historian Director
Henry Hecker, Midwest Region Director
Steve Jackson, Second Vice President

Absent: Kathie Craig, Treasurer

Guests: None

1. Michael presented the proposal submitted by Stanley Word and Greg Eaton to host the 2027 FOHBC National Convention which included a previously distributed proposed budget spreadsheet and video of the location. He noted that there is ample free parking and several nearby hotels that would accommodate the anticipated attendance.

The space would accommodate 300-400 sales tables and additional rooms for seminars and meetings.

Each dealer would be required to pay \$25 to the facility. A table charge of \$\$65-\$75 was included in the proposal.

There was discussion as to whether 300-400 tables was overly optimistic. Michael pointed out the October 2024 Nashville show is sold out already at 200 tables.

Charlie made a motion to approve the request for \$2,500 in seed money to secure the location. Tom Lines seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Ferd felt that the proposal did not follow the guidelines set out in the document that Ferd, Michael and Craig had developed. He especially noted that the proposal did not include the show and sale on Sunday and felt there was no model of a successful show using that format.

He did not think a souvenir program would be feasible since the show was too short and advertisers would not feel they were getting enough for the cost.

He also felt the budget was not realistic and questioned whether it was the Chattanooga Club or Nashville Club hosting the event.

He did not agree that dealers would be happier without a Sunday show but rather felt activities on Sunday should be compelling enough to bring in buyers that would keep dealers happy.

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Tom Lines pointed out that the Augusta National Convention did not have a Sunday component and yet it was successful, had a souvenir program, and showed a profit.

Ferd thought the location of the convention in the fairgrounds was too far away from big city activities.

Brian questioned which were the most important of the 25 guidelines that should be considered requirements. There was a question as to whether Stanley Word and Greg Eaton had received the guidelines before presenting this preliminary proposal.

Ferd pointed out that the proposal did not include a schedule of activities.

Henry offered that the enthusiasm of the Nashville team was enough to convince him to vote for the selection. And no other clubs or entities had shown any interest in hosting the 2027 convention.

Tom Lines indicated he would be the board contact for the show at least while he was in office.

It was suggested that the Nashville team needed to submit a more complete proposal following the guidelines in the document provided to them.

Though it was suggested a Letter of Intent could be offered to the convention site to hold the space, that would probably not be sufficient because it is on a first come, first reserved basis and the space is highly sought after. Nashville tried to secure it for a 2026 show but it was already booked.

Charlie said he was happy the Tennessee group had stepped up but we need to make sure we get a better response following the guidelines set forth since it is a partnership with FOHBC.

Craig noted there had not been an RFP sent out for 2027, so Nashville did not get the request nor the Guidelines until after they had prepared this proposal.

Craig wondered what hotel room costs would be.

Henry thought it would be a good idea to survey other organization to see how they handle planning events three or more years into the future when there is likely to be changes in board positions including board liaisons for events.

Charlie amended his motion to include “provided they give us an updated proposal within two months (October 19, 2024) which would follow the guidelines set forth in the Convention Proposal Guidelines document.” It was understood that we would be giving them the seed money of \$2,500 now acting on good faith and there is a potential that we would lose that money if the updated Nashville proposal was not accepted by the Board.

The motion by Charlie was re-presented to read: “I make a motion that we approve the request for \$2,500 in seed money to secure the location for a Nashville FOHBC Convention for 2027 provided that they give us an updated proposal within two months (October 19, 2024) which would follow the guidelines set forth in the Convention Proposal Guidelines document.”

Tom Lines seconded the motion.

Yes vote: Michael, Alice, Steve, Charlie, Richard, Tom, Eric, Henry, Brian

Abstain: Elizabeth

No vote: Ferd

Motion carried.

Ferd noted that as he said some time ago, he will no longer be preparing souvenir programs or leading conventions.

2. There was discussion about the accounting for the two Houston 24 Exhibition books as it relates to the H24 profit and loss statement. Elizabeth pointed out that the books were given by Joel Bartsch to Peachridge Collections (Ferdinand and Elizabeth) and they had decided to give them to Houston 24 with the understanding that the value would be attributed to Houston 24. Ferd and Michael had reached a temporary agreement to include current sales as income. Ferd wants to make sure H24 gets credit for the full value of the books. His intention was not to have the books go directly to the Federation. This will have to be worked out.
3. Ferd was also disappointed that he had not received any response from Michael on his request to bring the issue of compensation for website management back to the board for action. Michael indicated he had responded several times by email. Alice resent the emails, but apparently none of these were getting through to Ferd's email. Michael assured Ferd that this would be addressed as soon as he returned from a trip in mid-September. Ferd had resent the webmaster compensation proposal to each board member within the last couple of days and requested once again that it be acted upon.

Alice noted that the proposal called for the webmaster to be compensated once the new website was set up and that had not happened yet, mainly due to the immense amount of time Ferd had to spend on Houston 24, so the compensation program would not have been started yet.

Ferd has been providing webmaster services for many years at no cost to the Federation. He has retired from FMG to devote his time to FOHBC and his other interests and needs to be compensated for the extensive amount of work he is providing to the Federation. He therefore wishes to change that timeline to begin getting compensated now.

4. Ferd noted that any financial or accounting discussions with Elizabeth must include him also since Houston 24 questions come up and he is better prepared to answer those. He pointed out that Elizabeth has been ill for some time and he has been covering her work also. He is optimistic that she is on the right medication now and will be improving. Michael offered that Elizabeth and Edie were very accurate and efficient in providing information during the accounting meeting. Alice suggested getting some help for her but this has not been very successful in the past. Ferd requested that Alice help with collecting payment for the souvenir program ads.
5. Each board member was requested to consider members who have the skills to do some of the work Ferd has been doing such as souvenir programs. We need to bring more people in to do production work to free up some of Ferd's time.
6. **Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 pm.

The foregoing conveys our understanding of items discussed and decisions reached during this meeting. FOHBC will assume these notes correct and a matter of record unless notice to the contrary is received within one week of the issue date of these meeting notes.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice J. Seeliger, Secretary