

Grand Council WMG 2022 September 17, 2022

Attending:

Stewards & staff: Uncle Dan, Jill Kleinpeter, Conney Freese-Posthuma, Bone Daddy, Janie Van Buskirk, Aaron Bromberg, Lisa Daugherty, Joey Clendening, Katie Wolfe, Josh Netherton, Jef Stelzner, Chelsea Malwitz

General Members: Abel Bengé, Anthony Horton, Nancy Wiggenghorn, Jill Minor, Jonathon Rogoff, Aurora Morningstar, Pam Barker, Azisa Cordero, Tom Beymer, Alix Martin, Scotty Tedrow, Persephone Tedrow, Garret Haynes,, Daniel James, Laura Cantu-Brann, Chase Burden, David Earley, Dawn Baldwin, Dylan Stinson, Kite Riveras, Xavier Wallace, Rukus Harris, Brenna Douglas, Remy Nix, Toast Leisure, Michele Nix, Penny Stonecipher, Katherine Trout, Marshall Crick, Herman Strumpf, Jette Buttler, Jessa Lynn, James Russell, Darla Keller, Brittan Blackwell, Nichole Owens, Shawn Cochrane, Lily Blackwell, Polli Pollem, Torcyr Nix, Denver 2Bears, Dion Joy (Tobin), Aradia Beymer, Daisey Denson, James Fleetwood, Michael Posthuma, Michael Roberts, Maria Shell, Ben Hansen, Nicole Rodriguez, Scott Wilson, Vickie Stelzner, Laura Dolloff, Sara Boebinger, Breanna Silva, Natalia Wilson, Karin Bierman, Kel McBride, Lowell Torres, Ed Brann, Katie Liell-Kok, Rebecca Huston,

Katie opened by talking about how weird her time as VP has been. Her first meeting as VP was day before Isaac died, then having to adapt to pandemic. She passed around a feather she found when she came out the day after he died that's been in her car since. She said it's frayed and a microcosm of what we've been through. She said we need to bring our better selves, civility, lack of hostility, try to find a way to remember the common good and all stake holders no one better than another. Mentioned and group shared names of other people who've died who were part of Lothlorien and talked about work for Lothlorien honors them. She talked about how the community has experienced deep grief before and found a way to carry on. That because of the pandemic we all experience great grief, lost things we took for granted and have to find new ways of doing things and new paths forward. That our love of the land is what we have in common.

Lisa gave August financial report

Natalia reported results of VP election: Votes for Lily as VP Yes---51/No 35

Lily-thanked membership, said no matter how they voted that we're part of community and it's good to see people involved.

Janie-Because of pending grievance-Lily taking office is tabled until next meeting

Lowell-since she's here before the Council, does that mean she can serve as Vice President unimpeded? Can we resolve this now while all of us are here?

Nicole-can we deal with it now here in public?

Polli -asked for respect-Fiduciary duty-means organization and land come first-talked about the issues involving Eva and Lily-

Eva reported to CPS because she was a mandatory reporter. She was called the Friday before a Sunday council meeting. No grievance was filed. She couldn't come because she had covid. She wasn't given a copy of the procedures didn't know can't represent self. After 3 ½ years, no witnesses Council

proceeded without her, no discussion continuance 9 for 1 against, no opportunity to be heard. No opportunity to dispute claim that she did it out of spite. 10 year and one year suspension proposed, split difference, and gave 5-year suspension. No due diligence research on where whistle blower act federal & state. No discussion of mediation. Punishment capricious

Lily upon learning this sent a cringeworthy text. But she has free speech and what is the business reason? Person filing the grievance should recuse himself. Just before election when she's a candidate asking for a 5-year suspension is suspicious.

People have right to vote and right to be heard and right to due process, depending on the punishment involved.

Na- (to Polli?) you did the legal part. I reread the bylaws-they say that violence or harassment are legal parameters. Tried to talk to as many people as possible before GC to get different viewpoints. It's been 3 and half years and people who were involved were not the ones who filed the grievance.

Polli- you say it drew the attention of authorities. If you do not want to involve authorities don't punish people for reporting to authorities. Maybe council should give us a list

Penny-due process not followed; someone brought grievance. So, police coming is the problem? Mandatory reporter could lose license.

Polli wrapped up-Do we want to curtail free speech? Are we cool with arbitrarily banning people who speak out in anger? Do all members get to do this? Is it a good use of council's time? Council used its power to interfere with free speech. Who demands it to council for nasty text? Abuse of power and discretion used to solve petty grievances. Can anyone say that banning is in the best interest of the land with a straight face?

Janie-There were rumors for a while. Family was living on the land "self-sufficient" If Eva's feeling was good faith, then why did she report only the mother? Could have addressed council. Was it done so with good intent? Conney should have recused herself.

Katie L-K what was the exact reason for banning? If bad intent affected someone's livelihood? Was it calling authorities? (Is then when she asked if she, Jef, Jason and Zoe should be banned for calling authorities when Zoe was stabbed?)

Dion Joy- called in not to vilify anyone. She is contracted for Dept of Child Services to work with parents to resolve problems. With love and respect, police don't come unless CPS asks them for some reason like, dogs, guns, off main road or in gated driveway. It is not council's job or Eva's to decide not council's job to decide reasons or whether was for maliciousness. People have different strengths and weakness and council just to decide.

Polli has volunteered to mediate

Jill asked whether ??? had been used before If ???at all times. Need procedure to make clear what happened.

Karin-If CPS comes and give you a clean you a good report, it it's a badge of honor

Madison-read statement on Jason's behalf: "Tell 'em I'm looking forward to returning someday when Lothlorien is no longer haunted by those who would seek to control the land by conspiring, bullying, gaslighting and manipulating. Aaron must go."

Nancy- Insider ?is one factor I already suggested everyone take a deep breath and put aside personal feelings. it appears 5 years is punitive and excessive. Can Grand Council deal with while all present? None of council's business. Grievance against Lily suspicious timing Do we need to discuss that, too?

James-You keep saying there's evidence of ill intent and I think you should present that evidence.

Katie L-K-I disagree rash and brisk judgement. Lots of people aren't clear. The discussion we're having is what should have happened. (Council) needed to do due diligence. People feel that council overstepped. They're supposed to represent us

Kel-I was sexually assaulted on the land and didn't report. I watched that person having fun on the land for years. You can bet if I pressed charges it would be with malice?

Janet-15 years I've been coming. Policy progress and (failures) only one member-????? Place that has given me so much. This is my chosen family. We need to let everyone speak. Need to be more transparent listen more to everyone. People can't all be here. They're busy, need more understanding can't always be helped. You all are better than this! I'm proud of progress, but we still need to work. Everyone brings me to the land.

Aradia-I made a post on Facebook asking people to come to grand council because attendance is usually low why talking to not lots of rumors want everyone to talk to each other. We need a transparency committee. People need to be here even when these meetings are boring.

Azisa-There's a disconnect between council and members and majority of my education efforts are to put more info out there out there. We need a procedure for members to ask and address concerns before council. There's a general lack of info on how officers, steward and staff are voted on. There are lots of suggestions on ways to support council and improve communication, to remediate between disconnect points and how members feel. So, can we reset post pandemic and deal with those feelings? Council may feel attacked, but there's gratitude for council's work.

Ed-don't usually come to GC. Lots of discussion is good to hear. I've stayed away in the past. We're at a turning point, this is apparent, even with disagreements, would be good move to make. What is recourse? Transparency should be first on mind. More in depth content and discussion in minutes What are we taking forward with suggestions and here are we growing?

Janie-Minutes only require place, attendees, committee report and officer reports and votes. It's hard to put details of discussion, etc. up to now have been read very little.

Moving forward-agenda for next meeting will be posted the Friday before meeting-most changes to minutes are spelling and minor edits of discussion

Ed-I understand-we don't need details of long discussion about a new ice machine.

Polli-suggests video recording.

Karin (?) lives 4 hours away we now have technology Zoom for everyone eliminates hearsay, requirements minimum

Azisa committee for special projects

Katie L-K has question, suggestion, and solution ideas:

I still feel in regard to the specific incident because (I'm) a rule follower. What by-law got Eva banned? Motive doesn't price really. Was it bringing the police? If "malicious" why wasn't she allowed to speak on own behalf? I'm confused.

Janie says misconduct= calling. Aaron says "there's more"

Katie L-K: Does council have a code of ethics? No steward handbook?

Polli says there's a draft in VP group.

Katie L-K: Is there a procedure since council is not elected except VP and no term limits except for officers. Is there a procedure in bylaws?

Conney? Council elects officers

Katie L-K: Suggestion as member process not (done) thoroughly as membership would like it to be. Review it again and give all parties heard. Patrick and Wendi and have outside mediator. nd outside mediator.

Everyone should feel safe to say what they want

Transparency committee-council create to handle ban and ethical reviews board. Can look at situations on appeal could review as members and give suggestions.

Solution going forward-ongoing people feel they aren't being heard. Action needs to come from place of compassion and understanding. Let people make suggestions then hand it off. Connect ??? no one come

Joy- may be known ??????

Katie L-K-I'm willing to help set up this committee.

Polli?- If council members make grievance suggested, not required that they recuse themselves.

Nancy: read from by-laws: *Misconduct*. If a member has engaged in conduct materially and seriously prejudicial to Elvin HOME's interests or purposes, the Governing Council may terminate the membership in accordance with Elvin HOME's policies.

Bek-harassment usually means more than one incident-a pattern of harassment

Suggestion- Ask council as members discuss know...????...settle at next meeting Suspension means is open to coming back. Can table at next meeting let Eva come speak

Denver-Enough!' has heard enough he's friends with Wendi and she hasn't mentioned wanting to deal with it. "Everyone talking to him) Thanks to council past and present for putting up with bullshit World is falling to shit and we need our family not bringing our personal problems to council.

Kay-doesn't matter who called or why-should have been addressed before moving child on the land. Outside conns could have gotten whole organization in trouble

Dion Joy-not how CPS works-happened in right order. It would not have affected the land. many people you can love at a distance

Kay?? so can't have as much input here-only so much clout. Some do more than others because of physical ability and distance.

Minute drafts could be posted

Debra- start there and suggest audio or phone.

Janie-Some topics we discuss is the problem, public information.

Debra-Can turn microphone off for those conversation can't pick and choose who is on. Agree with kay People come to work w pprepare we shouldn't micromanage saying "not enough" todon't feel welcome we need to do better.

Michele-suggest Polli get Elder Emeritus status-put on agenda

Jill questions for DJ-are you willing to be resource for CPS information.

DJ-CPS wanted sheriff as escort because going on private property-CPS always filed under mom's name-standard practice If there is a mother, then mother's name is usually on the report, so the same name follows the case.