

Minutes, Lookout Bears, meeting April 23, 2005

Steve Swafford, Secretary

The regular monthly general meeting was called to order by President Mario Forte.

Mario expressed the desire to foster communication within the group as well as with other bears clubs. As part of that, he wants to create committees for various purposes which will make reports at the general meetings. He has also decided to resume sending a newsletter each month via U.S. Mail to all members and other bears clubs. We have also agreed to send out minutes of each general meeting to the members. In addition, he will ask our website manager to come to an upcoming board of directors meeting to discuss expanding our website.

We discussed the situation with several members whose renewals are past due. We needed to open a new checking account at SunTrust, since the previous one has been closed, and deposit the balance (in the form of a cashier's check) in the new account. The new account will require two signatures on the checks.

The board of directors has begun reviewing the bylaws to see what sections may need updating. The board will present any suggested amendments at an upcoming general meeting, hopefully in June.

We discussed the proper way to fill vacancies on the board. The original bylaws stipulated that the board would appoint someone to fill a vacancy. This may have been amended a couple of years ago to require a special election, but the amendment was not recorded in the official set of bylaws.

Kenny Griffith resigned as member-at-large so that he could run for treasurer. The members present at the meeting were asked whether they would approve Kenny in the new position. The members elected to approve Kenny in the new office. This leaves the position of member-at-large open. We will need nominations for this office at the next meeting.

Mario suggested a list of 10 possible committees for the club, including cultural activities, relations with area bears clubs, games and entertainment, sports and recreation, dining out, political action, charities, Lookout Bears events, housekeeping, and membership. Roger Foster has agreed to head the cultural activities committee, and Kenny Griffith will coordinate relations with other bears clubs.

Calendar of events:

1. Bear Night at Images -- Sunday, May 15th, 7-9 pm; this may be a recurring event, possibly on the 3rd Sunday of each month
2. Movie night -- Anyone want to go see the new Star Wars movie at the Rave? Some others will be going on Thursday, May 19. That is opening night, so check for advance tickets if available.

The next general meeting has been moved to Saturday, May 21, so as not to coincide with Memorial Day weekend. We may be having a picnic, with games that day and free bowling at TriState after the meeting. Some people from Southern Bears (Atlanta) and Big Men of Atlanta will likely be coming up for the meeting. Kenny is looking into the possibility of having a day of events that may include a visit to the aquarium, river rafting, etc. Look for details on this as they develop. (Secretary's note: I will be on a plane headed for Seattle that day, so sorry I can't make it. Have fun without me!)

Meeting was adjourned.