

2026-07-07 FUSE Board Meeting Notes

Notes by Heather. I am not an AI bot. You can pry my em-dashes from my cold, dead hands. ;P

Attendees: Damarra, Heather, Amanda ("Rico"), Daniel, Chris P, Sherilyn B

Call to order 8:06 PM

Treasurer Report (Daniel)

Balance as of 6/30 is \$6,185.02. Some funds were spent on filing paperwork for our organization's name change and printing of promotional materials. One printing expense went through twice but the refund for that is not reflected in the current report. We also received a payment on restitution from the Finney case which has not yet been deposited, and there is some pending income from merchandise sales at our CONvergence promo table. Other bills are as expected.

Daniel is still trying to communicate with TCG-IP and others for a new insurance quote. Rico volunteers to go to the Farmington office in person as they are unresponsive via email.

Our annual report for the Attorney General is actually due July 15th. It should be ready on time.

To do: Schedule inventory trip to the locker and update our business accounts with the new business name. BMI has still not confirmed our account with them is canceled.

Damarra notes that we not only need to do a full inventory of the storage locker contents but also research new storage locations. Ideally we could do the inventory and the move on the same day. In addition, we need to replace the cardboard boxes still in use for storage with durable plastic totes.

Completed Items

Promo materials with our new branding were provided to the Geek Partnership Society for display at Twin Cities Pride. Some were also given to a local game store and Twin Cities Geek.

We had a promo table at CONvergence with our new table runner, flyers, and handouts with the new business name. Roughly 70 people per day chatted with us at our table. We took in \$55 in merchandise sales. Attendees recognized the Anime Fusion name, which brought people in to talk to us about the rebrand and new direction of the organization. A surprising number of people are excited for the planned roller skating event.

Heather suggests adding a vertical item to the display featuring Anime Fusion to take more advantage of the brand recognition.

Last year's meeting recordings have been added to the organization website.

The soft sunset of the Anime Fusion website has been completed. It now features a summary message about the convention's hiatus along with a newsletter signup form. The website has also been moved to the organization's web server. Both are running well on the combined server. Heather did run into some problems doing the export/import of the Anime Fusion site to the org server, so the old server has not yet been shut down as she wants to do some more testing.

To do: Update Fusion site with the organization's new name and a more prominent redirect.

Rebrand Announcement

After considering all the suggestions and our updated mission, Quad Cities Anime has been renamed to Fusion Unconventional Social Events, abbreviated as FUSE Inc. This name more effectively communicates the ties to Anime Fusion and our focus on social events outside of full conventions. We are using the same tanuki logo that was created for QCA with the addition of a red sun behind the figure, as a bit of eye-catching color along with a nod to our origins as an org focused on Japanese anime and culture. Paperwork has been submitted for the name change at the state and federal level, and accepted by the State of Minnesota.

Revised mission statement:

FUSE strives to enrich our community through educational activities and opportunities for engagement by focusing on animation, gaming, and the cultural impact of both. Such experiences are significant in shaping intersocial development, improving social well-being, and increasing multi-cultural awareness.

We wish to provide these opportunities for people from all walks of life so that they may come together and learn from each other from the starting point of common interests and shared experiences.

We also plan to adopt "Quality Community in Anime" as a tagline for the org, which was one of Chris Picotte's suggestions that abbreviates to QCA.

In-Progress Tasks

Meeting notes and recordings for May and June need to be added to the website; the recordings are now available on our Google Drive.

Volunteer recruitment (Damarra): Still need to email former Fusion staff to generate a list of people willing to volunteer for FUSE events. We have been getting a few helpers already for the promo work we've been doing.

Social media (Rico): Now that the name change has been completed, we need to change our social media accounts over to the new branding and make announcements about the new name.

Website (Heather): Need to add Rico to our NordPass and create documentation for maintaining NordPass in general. Need to complete testing of website export/import processes and then shut down the old Fusion web server.

Need to determine how to structure access to org assets (Google Drive, etc) as needed for our volunteers. This can be discussed in an executive session.

Chris asks if we will be posting a flyer for FUSE on our Discord for interested parties to print and share. We don't have a new full flyer at this point but it is on our list of materials to create.

Still need to schedule an executive session to redesign the org website.

Our larger, overall purpose and goals have been decided, but we still need to make specific plans for achieving those goals.

Roller skating event (Heather): There are three options for roller skating events in the Twin Cities at this time.

Roller Skating Event Options			
	Skateville	Cheap Skate	Twin Cities Skaters
Location	Burnsville	Coon Rapids	ROC in St Louis Park
Transit accessible?	No	Yes	Yes
Days and times	Saturday 4:30-6:30 PM Sunday 4:00-6:00 PM	Sunday 7:00-9:00 PM	Saturday or Sunday, 3 hours Only available through mid-September
Skate rentals	Included	Included	Available (fee TBD)
Concessions	Yes	Yes	Food trucks
Music	Provide our own playlist	DJ available	DJ for additional fee
Price options	\$800 for up to 75 attendees, \$14/person additional Fundraiser option: We set the price of admission; any income above the fee owed to the venue is donated to us. Standard admission is \$11-14 with skate rentals extra.	\$16/person Fundraiser option: Admission from our attendees could be donated to us, but this is only available during public family skating times Tues/Thurs. Standard admission is \$7.75 with skate rentals extra.	\$600 Waiting for confirmation on whether venue and skate rentals are additional.]
Other considerations			POC-owned Venue has a roof but it is outdoors

Heather is still waiting for answers to a few questions from Twin Cities Skaters. Whatever option we go with, we need to be able to charge admission in some form to cover our expenses as FUSE cannot afford to provide a free event at this cost. The main negative regarding Skateville is that it is not transit accessible. Chris mentioned the Oval in Roseville, and there is a possible venue in Hopkins as well. Future discussion is tabled until we have the rest of the information.

Cosplay picnic (Rico): Scheduled for Saturday, September 5th at Phalen Park as a farewell to summer/start of fall event. The location was chosen to suit accessibility needs. Event hours will be 3-7:30 PM. The plan is for the picnic to be a potluck. Ideally we would find a way to serve grilled cheese, Anime Fusion's signature food item. The rental cost is \$70 and we will take donations at the event. Next step is details and advertising. The recommended marketing window according to another org rep we chatted with at CONvergence is six weeks. We don't currently own any outdoor/lawn games but it might be worth investing in a few. Chris suggests hosting karaoke, but that may not be an option since we've dropped our music licensing agreements. Chris notes that anime music might be cheaper to license but Heather points out that the licensing would be more complicated.

Garage sales (Damarra): First one now targeted for August/September, second one likely in winter. We also need to discuss how we want to handle the garage sales, e.g. independently vs partnership with other groups.

Movie meet-ups (Rico): The Revolutionary Girl Utena movie opportunity was missed. Need to keep an eye on other opportunities in the area. Damarra mentions Ghibli Fest and Heather mentions Your Name might be coming back to theaters. If we don't find much being shown publicly in the next few months we should try to arrange our own showing.

Cosplay dance (All): Still ideally on Fusion's weekend. Heather suggests if we don't think we can get it together in time we could use the roller skating event and make it a Halloween cosplay party bash, to maintain our presence in October.

Mutual support event (Damarra): Damarra has identified some groups we could partner with for this. They will be drafting an email with the details.

Planned roadshow cons: Twin Cities Con, Big Minneapolis Anime, 2D Con, Furry Migration, Fall Con, Excalibur Con, Akeome Con. For next year we want to look into more non-convention events.

New Items

Various website updates - assigned to Heather.

Research community-vetted security team options for events such as the cosplay dance - assigned to Damarra.

Open Floor

Chris suggests printed standees of the mascots to be added to the table display.

Damarra wants to find some cheap merch item we can give away for free, e.g. FUSE buttons.

Fes Works, a panelist, has recordings of several of their panels at Anime Fusion they are willing to provide for our YouTube channel.

Damarra needs reimbursement for the business filing fees. They also bought roughly \$91.30 in items we can use as prizes if approved by the Board.

Heather suggests we add requests for reimbursement to the regular Board meeting agenda.

Heather is willing to approve the prize reimbursement with the understanding that this is a one-time approval and outside of this we should use old volunteer prizes or discuss purchases in advance. Rico agrees.

Heather motions to approve the reimbursement. Rico seconds. Both vote yes, with Damarra recusing themselves from the vote.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, August 4th, 8:00 PM on FCC. Reminders to be sent 10 days prior.

Damarra motions to adjourn. Amanda seconds. Passes unanimously.

Adjourned 10:17 PM.

FCC Chat:

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:02 PM: Hi everybody.

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:02 PM: Waiting on some more Board Members?

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:03 PM: hai hai

Daniel, 7/7/2026 8:18 PM: lost my audio

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:26 PM: (address later, don't wish to inhibit the flow) Question for later: Cardboard Figures / characters, price estimation for printing?

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:34 PM: It could be 4-ever with the IRS.

Amanda Dalsted, 7/7/2026 8:35 PM: 😭 so long it could even be 5-ever?

Heather, 7/7/2026 8:35 PM: possibly

Amanda Dalsted, 7/7/2026 8:36 PM: (Also I have seen your q for later, worst case it can be brought up during open floor)

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:36 PM: 👍

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:38 PM: IRS will not follow up with rejections. States so in the literature for registrations, and the checks will not be returned.

Heather, 7/7/2026 8:38 PM: there was no fee for this

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:38 PM: !! woo

Heather, 7/7/2026 8:38 PM: you just have to send in a copy of your state paperwork. They send confirmation letters on request, so we requested one.

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:39 PM: oh... cool

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:39 PM: double cool

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:41 PM: Will a flyer be posted in the Discord, for printing and promotion internally to the those still connected in that way?

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:46 PM: Controlled access is key to security.

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:48 PM: yup

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:51 PM: Reasons or Reisen's? (confusion)

Amanda Dalsted, 7/7/2026 8:51 PM: Reasons

Heather, 7/7/2026 8:51 PM: raisins

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:52 PM: 🙄

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:54 PM: nope

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:55 PM: Dunno, didn't see.

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:57 PM: looks good

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 8:58 PM: Did you reach out to Rosedale center?

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 9:17 PM: oof

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 9:17 PM: both?

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 9:20 PM: Rosedale or Hopkins?

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 9:22 PM: Dry floor, different or similar to open floor?

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 9:28 PM: Karaoke?

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 9:28 PM: hmm\

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 9:31 PM: For venues, YES, need license. Yet... If most is themed music from anime, the licensing could be cheaper, depending on who licenses it in the US.

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 9:36 PM: Gasp!

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 9:45 PM: A full Autumn is a happy Autumn.

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 9:53 PM: odd

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 9:54 PM: The Google Phantom strikes again.

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 9:58 PM: yes

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 9:58 PM: sure

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 10:00 PM: That would be cool, but costly.

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 10:01 PM: 3D printed, figures of the characters?

Heather, 7/7/2026 10:01 PM: I just had that thought too

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 10:02 PM: Buttons can be pokie

Christopher Picotte, 7/7/2026 10:03 PM: Any old shirts left over?