2026-09-01 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

Call to order 8:08 PM

Treasurer Report (Daniel)

Balance as of 8/30 is $5,479.27 after regular bills and a few purchases for our table at 2D Con. We are forecasted to have around $2,000 remaining at the end of the year.

We finally have new insurance quotes, partly thanks to Rico who went in person to a Bremier/AJG office and found us a new contact. USLI/AJG, our current provider, quoted $1,581.33 for reduced coverage without the annual convention, down from $2,700.57. The alternate quote from NIA is $5,815. Daniel will be investigating these quotes and seeing if they can be reduced any further. Our current coverage ends September 20th.

Still need to update our various accounts with the new business information and order a new checkbook. Daniel tried having the business credit cards reissued online and they came with the old information, so he needs to follow up with the bank. Huntington did provide an updated business information stamp for endorsing checks.

Inventory of the storage locker is scheduled for this Monday. Damarra emailed our volunteers to request help.

Completed Items

2D Con promo table: The table was outside, so there was a lot of wind to deal with. Traffic was decent considering this was the first time 2D has had its promo tables outdoors, but only around 49 people visited the table. We did get new engagement on our social media during the weekend, which might have resulted from our table promo. As this is a local convention with free parking, we are able to promote at 2D at no cost, so regardless of the amount of traffic it is still a worthwhile place to do marketing. Overall people are still happy to hear our organization is still around and will be doing activities despite the convention being on hiatus.

Furry Migration promo table: Damarra has reached out to our volunteer list to get another helper for this event and we should have a full crew of four.

The business change announcement was made on Bluesky.

Movie meet-up: The showtimes for “Your Name” were not announced until the last minute, which delayed the meetup promotion. We did have one person from the general public attend in addition to our own staff. Rico made a sign for FUSE to help people gather at the meetup, which

was helpful for the general attendee. Rico notes that we did not have a newsletter go out during the promo period for this event. Heather mentions that the original Transformers movie is getting rereleased in theaters soon and would be a good choice for another meetup. Damarra suggests we go ahead with movie meetup announcements even if we don't have showtimes; it should be fine as long as we have a date. The Rosedale AMC is a good location for wide-release films.

May, June, and August meeting recordings and all meeting notes have been added to the FUSE website. The July recording needs a small edit before posting.

Executive meetings were held regarding the website redesign and other action items.

In-Progress Items

Website redesign [Heather] - A development environment is now available for the board to use as a sandbox. The preliminary content we discussed at the executive meetings will be added over the next couple of weeks.

Roller skating [Heather] - Twin Cities Skates is available on our desired date, but the ROC venue we were going to use is not. Heather suggests working with one of the indoor rinks for this event and reconnecting with TCS next season for the next one. ROC had only two dates available, one of which was a weekday and both of which were too soon to pull the event together properly. Damarra wants to move forward with an event now even if it's not ideal because there was a lot of community interest in a roller-skating activity. Heather recommends Skateville as they seemed more flexible on the options we need and fundraising structure. If we are able to schedule the event right away, we can still fit it in for the last weekend in September or the first weekend in October. Heather is concerned about having the event too close to our planned October activity but both Damarra and Rico feel there is enough buffer time. The ideal would still be to work with TCS in the long run and have outdoor events at the ROC, which is likely to also be our location for ice skating events. February is the most likely timeframe for the ice skating event. Damarra and Rico are okay with applying the approved roller-skating event budget to the new plan at Skateville. Heather to secure a date for the event this week.

Picnic [Rico] - Scheduled for this Saturday, September 5th. Damarra recommends additional posts on the Twin Cities Geeks Facebook groups. Heather suggests sending a one-off promo email to the mailing list if we don't have enough content for a full newsletter. Rico will write up content for that tonight. She asks for suggestions on how much bread and cheese to buy for grilled cheese sandwiches. Heather cautions not to get carried away as turnout may not be as large as we expect. Rico is planning a casual hangout without much structure. Damarra suggests we obtain a few large games in the future for outdoor events like this, such as an oversized Jenga set. Heather suggests parachute games. Rico will be making an additional picnic promo post on our social media over the coming day. Damarra recommends bringing the cash box to take donations along with providing a QR code for digital donations; Heather counters to provide a tip jar and bring the card reader but not the box of petty cash.

Garage sales [Damarra] - At this point the next sale might be pushed into 2027 due to all the other things we have going on.

Movie meetups [Rico] - Damarra reminds Rico to check independent theaters for movies they might have coming up.

Themed event night [All] - Instead of the cosplay dance we had hoped to host this year, we will be looking to partner with a local event center on a themed activity night. Damarra has started reaching out to potential locations. This would be good outreach for the organization if not a good fundraising opportunity, and would be less work than putting together a dance. The aim for this is to host it in October, on Anime Fusion's former weekend or the weekend after.

Communal help/resource event [Damarra] - Working on a draft outreach email. Ideally this event would be held in November or December.

Facebook page name change [Rico] - We are probably out of luck on getting this to happen as we have gotten nowhere with our requests. Akeome Con has been trying to change their page name for much longer than us with no success. Rico might have a contact she can ask, but we may be stuck. Hopefully we can at least get a lead on the proper process. Damarra asks what our course of action should be if we can't change the name - live with the Anime Fusion page or make an entirely new page? Heather says we should leave it; trying to establish anything on Facebook these days is an uphill battle and we wouldn't get everyone to switch over. It's not that we need to disassociate ourselves from the Anime Fusion name; we're adding a new one. Rico notes that there is at least a naming similarity between FUSE and Anime Fusion. Heather found an alternate name option for Facebook pages that we could use; it would still have Anime Fusion as the official name but we could add "also known as FUSE Inc" to it. This might be the best we can do.

Social icons need to be re-added to the Fusion website [Heather] - this has been completed.

Staff lab coats [Damarra] - A printer has been selected that provided an acceptable sample print. Damarra is double-checking the order information and then will be bringing the coats in for printing this week.

Upcoming roadshows:
Twin Cities Con - applied, need to follow up in case of email issues
Furry Migration - confirmed, planning in progress
Fall Con - mid-October, no contact made as of yet. Rico to reach out to them.
Excalibur Con - missed for 2026
Akeome Con - confirmed, planning to be done later. We have use of their "community room" at this con. Damarra wants to be sure we have a good plan for this as it is a more versatile opportunity for us than most roadshow events.

Other items - Rico suggests having the community outreach event in Nov-Dec as that is a season when people like to do that kind of work.

New Items

Business cards [Damarra] - A design has been chosen. Damarra will get cost quotes for the board to review and vote on.

Roadshow supplies - Damarra has requested we purchase the following items after the experience outdoors at 2D Con: Paper weights, tablecloth weights, clips, bungee cords, a handout holder, tie-downs, locks. Damarra would like to start securing the table runner and storage bin with locks overnight at events. Total would be $102.45. Heather motions to approve the request. Rico seconds. Both Heather and Rico vote yes.

Side note: We need to verify whether people need to recuse themselves from votes that don't personally benefit them but are for their own projects.

Open Floor

Chris asks if we have obtained/sorted through the old files he provided. Damarra located the folder shared with the convention chair account. They will download the files and upload them to the shared drive for archiving.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 6th. The meeting start time will be moving to 7:30 PM for a slightly earlier start. Still on FCC. Reminders to be sent 10 days prior.

Damarra motions to adjourn. Amanda seconds. Passes unanimously.

Adjourned 9:49 PM.

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 8:07 PM: Y

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 8:20 PM: Forwarding has always been an issue. No ideas why it's been buggy.

**, 9/1/2026 8:29 PM: our legs were in another castle

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 8:54 PM: Monthly e-mails?

**, 9/1/2026 8:54 PM: that's the plan, this would just be a special one

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 9:34 PM: Could also attach to table.

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 9:37 PM: 👍

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 9:38 PM: peanuts

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 9:39 PM: Has the Google Drive material been gone over?

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 9:40 PM: That, and... everything.

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 9:40 PM: I* don't need anything of it.

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 9:42 PM: Owership was transfered to Fusion.

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 9:42 PM: That's all I needed to know.

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 9:43 PM: Personal.

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 9:43 PM: Shared.

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 9:43 PM: Fusion.

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 9:43 PM: Chair?

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 9:44 PM: OIrganized by year.

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 9:46 PM: cool

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 9:46 PM: Good day. Be well.

Christopher Picotte, 9/1/2026 9:47 PM: I'm out. Stuff to do.