

# Reserve for: usual BHPI meeting.

## Quick recap

The Bear History Project International >> (not the Board -- this was a meeting open to all BHPI members, only Board members attended) met to discuss ongoing projects and upcoming events. Phil reviewed recent activities including the completion of archive visits led by Nick, which resulted in cataloged materials and documentation of the collection. Les reported on his recent presentation in Estonia and discussed challenges with event organization and compensation. The group discussed plans for fall events in San Francisco, with Mel volunteering to lead a committee to organize a panel discussion at the Roxie and potentially another event at GLBT history museum. Financial support for Les's future representations was addressed, with agreement to develop guidelines for organizational support of his (and others') travel and expenses. The group also discussed upcoming events including a film screening in Syracuse and potential representation at leather events like MAL >> and IML. The next regularly scheduled meeting was set for July 11th, with June's meeting being skipped due to Pride Month conflicts.

## Next steps

- Phil: Send access to the book reading files to Les, Chris, and the other two participants, and host them on a separate page within the Bear History Project International website. 📅
- Phil and Alejandro: Review and resolve the Chase bank account transactions to determine if any money is owed to the project. 📅
- Phil: Follow up with Hunter about the official thank you to the Centaurs. 📅 >> (Phil is going to send something regardless.)
- Les and Nick: Write two reports/articles about the archive visits for different audiences. 📅
- Les and Nick: Organize a "how-to" guide for visiting the archives. 📅
- Phil: Check on the progress of the videotape digitization project. 📅
- Mel: Lead the committee for organizing the fall event(s) in San Francisco, including reaching out to the Roxie and the GLBT Historical Society. 📅
- Les: Contact Andy (documentarian) to set up a Zoom meeting with Phil and Mel to discuss

a potential event at the Roxie. 🗓️

- Phil: Set up the Zoom meeting with Andy once Les provides the scheduling information. 🗓️
- Phil and Mel: Finalize and post the job listing for a video editor. 🗓️
- Les: Send a list of planned activities and potential BHPI involvement over the next 6 months to the board, along with financial support needs. 🗓️
- Board (Phil, Alejandro, Mel, Les): Develop guidelines for financial support of Les's >> (and others') future representations. 🗓️
- Phil: Reimburse Les for the \$17 spent on flyers for the Syracuse event. 🗓️ >> (Together with other minor expenses already promised, like the bar cards.)
- Les: Submit the Estonia presentation materials to the Bear History Project for archiving, with clear copyright and usage instructions. 🗓️ >> (Phil sent an AI-generated suggested format and next steps.)
- Les: Consider writing and pitching an article about the Estonia experience to larger publications for potential payment. 🗓️
- Les: Include Mid-Atlantic Leather (MAL) event representation and needs in the list of activities for financial support. 🗓️
- Mel and Les: Stay in touch to start working on the event committee, including reaching out to the GLBT Historical Society. 🗓️
- Les: Continue scheduling oral history interviews and CC Phil on communications. 🗓️
- All: Next scheduled meeting is for Saturday, July 11th. 🗓️

## Summary

### Upcoming Meeting Agenda Discussion

Phil and Mel discussed the agenda for an upcoming meeting, noting that Les was expected to join but had not yet confirmed his attendance. Phil mentioned that he had reached out to Les regarding the support he needs and goals to be established. The conversation ended as Les joined the call.

### Bear History Project Updates

Phil provided updates on the Bear History Project's website management, Facebook group growth to 389 members, and the January book reading project with Jessica, which has been completed and will be hosted on a separate page of the website. Phil and Alejandra are reviewing financial transactions in their Chase Bank account to clarify any outstanding obligations to the project. Hunter agreed to complete an official thank you to the centaurs for their support before transitioning away from board duties to focus on his PhD, though the status of this task remains unclear.

## **Archive Visit and Digitization Planning**

The team discussed the completion of the third and final archive visit, with Les and Nick planning to write two reports for different audiences about their experience. They reviewed a poll results on taxonomy for the collection, which included categories such as material type, origin, language, author, publication date, organization focus, and genre. The team also addressed the digitization of videotapes, with Cornell Archives planning to make them publicly available, and Mel provided guidance on YouTube content guidelines and safety measures. Finally, Phil mentioned issues with shipping pins and business cards to Nick due to customs complications.

## **Fall Event Planning Discussion**

The group discussed plans for an upcoming fall event, considering options at the Roxy and the San Francisco Men's Chorus building. Les proposed doing a presentation on early bear history, potentially followed by a panel discussion. Mel suggested combining this with information about the history of bears in San Francisco. The group also discussed the possibility of including a documentary filmmaker, Andy, and potentially hosting a joint fundraiser event. They noted that timing was important, as there were deadlines for commitments with the Historical Society.

## **Barefield Festival Event Planning**

The group discussed organizing events around Barefield Festival in October, with Les proposing a mini festival featuring three films including "Campfire" and "Bear Run" at a local cinema. Mel volunteered to lead the committee and suggested doing two events: a smaller panel discussion at GLBT history museum focused on Bare history, and potentially a larger

event at the Roxy or SFGMC's building. Mel noted her existing relationships with the Roxy venue and offered to explore both venue options and coordinate the committee work locally.

## **Barriers and Bear History Planning**

The meeting focused on planning for the >> Bear-i-son Weekend and Bear History Project activities. Les requested financial support for airfare to a October 17th event, and Mel suggested coordinating with Andy to plan similar activities at the Roxy. The group discussed the length of two films (Bear Run at 50 minutes and >> Campfire at 17 minutes), with Mel expressing concern that Bear Run might be too long. The conversation ended with Phil requesting Les to provide specific details about his plans and financial needs for future representations with the Bear History Project International, emphasizing the need for clear goals and expectations for spending.

## **Financial Guidelines for Travel Support**

The group discussed creating organizational guidelines for financial support of Les's travel and representation work for the Bear History Project International. Alejandro agreed to establish guidelines requiring Les to submit detailed plans and costs for future trips, with reimbursement options available either as daily stipends or direct payments from the nonprofit's account for better transparency. The meeting also covered a recent \$17 expense for flyers that was pending reimbursement, and Les provided an update about an upcoming film event in Syracuse, noting that while Come Out Central New York had initially planned to cover theater rental costs, this was no longer needed as the manager had donated the space.

## **LGBTQ Event Advertising and Planning**

Les discussed advertising plans for an upcoming event in upstate New York, including using Scruff advertising and a free ad donation from Sage, an LGBTQ organization for older people. Les shared concerns about a recent trip to Estonia where they presented on LGBTQ history, expressing frustration about not being paid and issues with event organization. The group discussed archiving Les's presentation materials, with Phil suggesting they should be copyrighted and clearly marked as not for public sharing. Mel advised Les to create a legal entity to protect their intellectual property in the future.

## **Bear History Project Planning Meeting**

The group discussed several topics related to the Bear History Project. Phil offered to help Les set up legal entities for intellectual property >> (AI-generated suggestion and next steps emailed to Les, Alejandr, Mel, etc.), and Mel suggested monetizing Les's experience from the Estonia event by writing and selling articles to larger publications about the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the local LGBTQ+ community. The team also discussed upcoming interviews, including with the current Mr. Bolt Leather 2025 and Sir Aaron, and potential representation at leather events like Mid-Atlantic Leather. They decided to skip the June meeting due to Pride Month commitments and scheduled the next meeting for July 11th.