

Minutes of the BeVolunteer General Assembly 2014



Forum discussions 1st – 7th November, Real life meeting and online chat 8th – 9th November 2014

Moderators: thorgal67, polyglot

Minutes: claudiaab

Present in Grimbergen: beatnick, claudiaab, duesseldorf, polyglot, thorgal67, s_d_p

Actively present online: wind, railslide, samuele, crumbking, leoalone, fhina, libertedeparole, octobertales, leoalone, beatnick,

Saturday 8th November 2014

10:07 Annual Report

- The Annual Report <http://www.bevolunteer.org/?p=455> was discussed briefly, some questions were answered (Welen project: The reasons, why the volunteers behind it stopped, are not so clear, either too ambitious project or organizational issues);

11:05 Financial Report

- <http://www.bevolunteer.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Financial-Statement-2013-2014.pdf>
- Questions and comments about paypal:
 - Suggestion to make it even clearer that we prefer donations through bank transfer to donations through paypal (high fees).
 - Paypal for non-profits: If our application is accepted, we can reduce paypal fees from ca.3% to ca. 1%.
 - Having two paypal accounts might help in case one is blocked (paypal sometimes does that without much of a reason), on the other hand it might overcomplicate things and it's not sure that paypal would accept this setup at all.
 - Not using paypal at all is not an option, since it's a good and easy way to donate also for people outside of Europe.
- Donations: French people can get a tax reduction paper for donations made to BeVolunteer
- Hetzner (servers) can only be paid (debit) from a German bank account or with a credit card. Matthias pays for Hetzner for BV and gets the money once a year from BV. We are still looking for a better solution. E-credit card might be an option, but needs to be investigated further.
- INPI was paid 1-2 years ago but was still included in the report to keep in mind the date
- Legal insurance: payable in January

11:40 Be Active

- The BoD presents a revision of the BeActive rules to the GA:
https://www.bewelcome.org/wiki/BeActive_review_proposal
- Questions and comments:
 - Suggestion to lower the required number of comments from three to two
 - **"Food and drinks not exceeding the amount of 2 EUR per person per day"**
 - **"The BoD will evaluate all proposals according to these rules within 30 days following the deadline after application. It will then select those activities that are entitled to receive a part of the Be Active budget. Applications are accepted throughout the legal year, but only if funds are still available. A new donation campaign for BeActive funds can be started once 60% of the funds have been used"** – originally suggested 90 % was reduced to 60 %
 - Have not only donation campaigns for BeActive and 'the rest', but allow people to select a purpose themselves. <-> too much money might be blocked for certain purposes

12:15 lunch break-

13:00 Volunteering - recruiting, managing, motivating them

<https://www.bewelcome.org/groups/1946/forum/s12537->

[Topic_1_Volunteering_recruiting_managing_motivating](#)

- recruiting: point of access
 - update Volunteer Page
 - application terms and procedures for the 'closed' teams should be clear and made by either the team or GA (already started at https://www.bewelcome.org/wiki/Group_BeWelcomeVolunteerCoordination)
 - more active in recruiting a) volunteers and b) BeVolunteer members from these volunteers. Offering good information in the menu, creating a job board etc. are very useful and important means, but basically they still rely on BW members looking for volunteering opportunities. By more active recruitment:
 - calls for volunteers in different communication channels (newsletters, community news, public group threads)
 - monitor the forum and actively contact members that post interesting ideas, are present a lot and seem to have some interest and talents
 - check back with older volunteering offers. Sometimes public calls result in lots of offers and in the process of setting up new vols some others might be left out. This is not ideal, but it's realistic. Still we could check back to see, if people would still be willing to help

- add a line about volunteering in the welcome message from the NMBW team; if members put their profession or a useful skill in their profile, NMBW volunteer could refer them to the right team
- monitor the teams and also ask team coordinators to regularly consider asking volunteers to join BV
- job board: people should see easily what is needed and how they could contribute. Specific tasks rather than a general description
- banner: 'volunteer now'
- managing: team structure - team coordinators , mentoring, cooperation of teams
 - we should define the different teams (with different goals) and see which teams are needed at the moment
 - every team could have a public group/section where people can read upon updates, ask questions or suggest stuff
 - (almost) every team should have a closed working group, like the Forum Mods, Safety Team, Suggestion Team and New Member BeWelcome Team have
(so that it's very clear for all team members who's in and who's not. At this moments, there are many open teams which don't function, because of their size and not focussed on tasks/goals. The closed teams mentioned earlier are the volunteer teams that really function)
 - Regular clean ups of the groups so that ('who is still active, who wants to remain in the group?')
 - Put number of really active team members in group description and keep this up to date
 - pick up the idea of team coordinators and a general volunteering group/team. This team looks after communication between teams, between teams and BoD/GA and motivates other members to volunteer (through better information or talking to members who show interest)
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- Motivating
 - Group chats
 - Good mentoring
 - Taking care of constant flow of new vols
 - Volunteer cafés
 - Group working sessions instead of only private volunteering
 - Workathons
 - Fostering team work and team feeling
 - Showing appreciation

14:34 Suggestion Tool

https://www.bewelcome.org/groups/1946/forum/s12538-Topic_2__Suggestion_tool

- Controversy whether and in how far this topic is a BeVolunteer topic

- People present and present online agreed to have a review of the suggestion process outside of the suggestion tool and to try to get mountx for this task

15:30 break-

16:04 API - Do we need one, what should it include?

- Users of API should not get more data than users of the BeWelcome website in general
- there is an overlap with the mobile version, but both are also independent of each other
- API is more code friendly
- without API many change of the website needs a change in the application / update of the application
- drawback: API first needs to be developed
- good investment for the future: it's more work now, but will save time later
- new ToU for API would not be needed, since you access API via BeWelcome website, so the BeWelcome ToU apply
- API can be made piece by piece
- Consensus is to encourage efforts developing an API

17:00 Discuss whether we should apply for "Google for Non-Profits" - <http://www.google.com/nonprofits/join/> which could provide free AdWords advertising and access to donations - <https://onetoday.google.com/home/nonprofits>

- benefits of promoting BW in the google search: we could define the keywords that pop up BeWelcome as a search result (e.g. not 'free accommodation' but rather 'cultural exchange')
- will google have access to BW data? – only if we use google apps (google drive, google calendar)

17:30: impromptu discussion about lack of BoD candidates

- BoD agreed to write a message to all BeVolunteer members about the situation

18:14 end

Sunday 9th November 2014

10:04 presentation of the budget

<http://www.bevolunteer.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Budget-2014-2015.pdf>

- Budget will start from November 1st 2014
- Some research has to be done whether our practice of ending the financial year before the GA and starting a new financial year after is correct
- There is enough budget to upgrade servers if necessary
- Adding 800 EUR for promotional material was decided (to have more flexible funds for this than the BeActive funds)

11:15 Skimming features of the BeWelcome website to make code more manageable for a mobile version and other ideas to attract devs

<https://www.bewelcome.org/forums/s12539/>

- For the mobile version it was suggested to drop blogs (already decided via suggestions tool), trips and map search; there was already a vote to merge text and map search in the suggestions process: <https://www.bewelcome.org/suggestions/120/>. During the discussion this narrowed down to temporarily drop those tools to be able to publish the mobile version faster. The idea is that the new mobile version might also attract new devs. There is disagreement about how long 'temporarily' would be, whether or not map search is a key feature and whether two frontends (old + mobile version) could be maintained to allow users to change back and forth.

12:00 lunch break-

13:40 Discuss the article 6.2 of the statutes "the Board of Directors can reject the membership without having to justify their decision" changing to "The BoD in case of membership rejection must justify the decision only to applicant, who then can decide to have it published or not"

<http://www.bewelcome.org/groups/1946/forum/s12546->

[Topic 6 Review article 6 2 of the statutes](#)

- There was a long discussion whether or not the statutes have to be changed in order to reflect what was already written in the rules and regulations. In the end we agreed that legally this would not be necessary but that it would be good to clarify the statutes in the course of the planned makeover of the statutes next year.

14:21 Questions for the BoD candidates

- to all: what legal position could you imagine taking on?
 - wind: all positions besides secretary general
 - leoalone: not treasurer that need experience, not executive since maybe i am not too much diplomatic. BW relations yes
 - octobertales: because of my time constraint and my upcoming travels, I don't think it's a good idea of me to aim a specific legal position. Because I'm in french, I guess I might be helpful as a second treasurer... but not the main one
- to all: pointing to limited time during the 'campaign' does not really sound promising. Can you explain, why you do this or why you are running?
 - candidates say that they do have time for BoD but that time is limited and that they would step back if there were candidates with lots of time at their hands.
- next question is about Volunteers and Coordination i would ask to all what plans about a) increasing the number of volunteers b) creating mentors/tutor? an coordination with all teams? with which aim?

- wind: i think i would basically stick to the proposals from the discussion yesterday
- duesseldorf: I have not made up my mind so far waiting for brainstorming with the new BoD ... and hoping for an active volunteer coordinator - but yes - getting more volunteers involved is a priority task
- octobertales: Don't have any specific plan yet, but agree that it should be a priority to have more volunteer...
- wind: also getting more BV members is important to me
- about volunteer coordination: amnesiac and octobertales announced they would be willing to focus on this.
- In your opinion, what is the right balance between strengthening the BW brand on the one hand and proactively seeking new members (e.g. Google Adwords) on the other? Should Moses come to the mountain or should the mountain come to Moses?
 - duesseldorf: let the mountain come ;)
 - octobertales: BeWelcome is slowly growing, and I don't think we want it to go to fast. I'm happy to see the mountain coming to us.
 - leoalone ditto
 - duesseldorf: actually I think that even without advertisement BW grows at a good pace and attracts the "right" members with the hospex spirit; advertisement in the surrounding of wwwoofing or helpx attracts the people we appreciate, but definitely not on airbnb
 - wind: i think our proposal for google adwords was quite elaborated - not allowing google analytics
 - so do BoD candidates agree that proactive recruitment of new members should exclusively focus on groups/milieus who can be assumed to have the hospex spirit?
 - duesseldorf: basically yes ... and regions where we are less present
 - I also remember polyglot saying yesterday that Google Adwords should only be used to advertise for things like "cultural exchange" but not "free accommodation"
 - OctoberTales: not exclusively in those groups, because there's great people everywhere, but that recruitment should be made carefully (not happy with the word "recruitment" though...)
 - which imo is a good example of doing advertising while still recognising the primacy of your brand's values.
 - wind: free accomodation is not the right keyword for sure
- what is your elevator speech for BW? please present BW in 30 seconds
 - OctoberTales: I don't think I have one. Talking about BW (or hospex in general) doesn't fit in a 30s time frame. Well... at least, not in my way of enjoying a chat. I like to take my time and to elaborate. Have a look to my profile, and you'll understand I'm not a guy who makes it short when I can make in long :)
 - leoalone: A place to find people that trust in something but won't force you to follow it. A place to meet person that may share with you their home and their time, that won't ask money but your participation. my elevator is quite fast and i live on 2nd floor.

- wind: honestly i realised explaining to newbies what is wrong with for-profit hospex normally scares them away.... people don't want to listen to half an hour political stuff before even joining a network...
- OctoberTales: a simple way to tell the difference between CS and BW is that one of those two website is trying to make money out of people generosity
- duesseldorf: I always use the word "exchange" and say "saving money is a nice side effect but not the goal" ... the goal of hospex = BW is to establish personal relations and maybe even create friendships

15:30 end of the GA

Poll Results

Annual report 2013/2014

The annual report for this year (2013/2014) can be found here: http://www.bevolunteer.org/?attachment_id=455

This poll was started on 2014-11-09 15:42:56 It ended on 2014-11-11 23:59:00 17 people have contributed

Possible choices (Exclusive)	Results
No, I don't approve the annual report	0 (0.0%)
Yes, I approve the annual report	16 (94.1%)
blank votes	1 (5.9%)
Total	17 (100.0%)

Financial report 2013/2014

The financial report for this year (2013/2014) can be found here: <http://www.bevolunteer.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Financial-Statement-2013-2014.pdf>

This poll was started on 2014-11-09 15:39:42 It ended on 2014-11-11 23:59:00 16 people have contributed

Possible choices (Exclusive)	Results
No, I don't approve the financial report	0 (0.0%)
Yes, I approve the financial report	16 (100.0%)

blank votes	0 (0.0%)
Total	16 (100.0%)

Budget 2014/2015

The budget for next year (2014/2015) can be found here http://www.bevolunteer.org/?attachment_id=456

This poll was started on 2014-11-09 15:30:51 It ended on 2014-11-11 23:59:00 17 people have contributed

Possible choices (Exclusive)	Results
No, I don't approve the budget	0 (0.0%)
Yes, I approve the budget	17 (100.0%)
blank votes	0 (0.0%)
Total	17 (100.0%)

Revise BeActive campaign rules

The suggested changes for the BeActive campaign can be found here (marked in bold):https://www.bewelcome.org/wiki/BeActive_review_proposal

This poll was started on 2014-11-09 15:57:42 It ended on 2014-11-11 23:59:00 16 people have contributed

Possible choices (Exclusive)	Results
No, I don't approve the suggested changes	0 (0.0%)
Yes, I approve the suggested changes	16 (100.0%)
blank votes	0 (0.0%)
Total	16 (100.0%)

Google for non-profits

Should BV join the 'Google for non-profits' program?

This poll was started on 2014-11-09 15:48:14 It ended on 2014-11-11 23:59:00 16 people have contributed

Possible choices (Exclusive)	Results
NO, BV cannot sign up for Google for non-profits	7 (43.8%)
Yes, BV can sign up for Google for non-Profit for the exclusive use of Google Adwords. The account cannot be used for any other purpose.	9 (56.2%)
blank votes	0 (0.0%)
Total	16 (100.0%)

➔ the minimum votes were not reached

Revise statutes article 6.2

Do you agree that the GA gives the new BoD a mandate to revise the statutes article 6.2. by the next annual GA so that it clearly says that rejecting a membership application to BeVolunteer always needs to be justified by the BoD, who until then have to follow what's written in Rules and Regulation (i.e. motivate membership rejections)

This poll was started on 2014-11-09 20:49:17 It ended on 2014-11-11 23:59:00 16 people have contributed

Possible choices (Exclusive)	Results
No, I don't agree	2 (12.5%)
Yes, I agree	14 (87.5%)
blank votes	0 (0.0%)
Total	16 (100.0%)

GA 2014: BoD election

Please cast your votes for the election of the new BoD for the legal year 2014/2015.

You can vote for each candidate once. A candidate needs at least 12 votes to be elected into the BoD.

You can read more about the candidates here: [BoD Candidates](#)

This poll was started on 2014-11-09 20:14:53 It ended on 2014-11-11 23:59:00 20 people have contributed

Possible choices (Inclusive)	Results
yepkio	No
leoalone	No
OctoberTales	Yes
amnesiac84	Yes
wind	Yes
duesseldorf	Yes
Total	20 (100.0%)