

Subject: Re: Formal Complaint: Metal Shop Mismanagement

From: Tails Hartnett <hon1nbo@dallasmakerspace.org>

Date: 9/30/21, 4:48 PM

To: "Dallas Makerspace (Dallas Makerspace)" <admin@dallasmakerspace.org>

X-GM-THRID: 1710983540676448637

X-Gmail-Labels: Sent, Opened

MIME-Version: 1.0

References: <CABGdTs+rKfg8Z-=GKmDFyBag3cnCzX=MNE-=g4EL4uu2uU4qyA@mail.gmail.com>

In-Reply-To: <CABGdTs+rKfg8Z-=GKmDFyBag3cnCzX=MNE-=g4EL4uu2uU4qyA@mail.gmail.com>

Message-ID: <CABGdTsK2+yk+YH+ZGhdRqJLbi-htgMVR+fx7FTZ7Dfc8TyTJ_A@mail.gmail.com>

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All,

We postponed discussing this since James was out at the time of our last meeting. However as of today, with the oven officially having been unavailable to members for 5 months and multiple days passed since the only response from any committee leadership after months of trying to get answers, I am asking we discuss this.

I can't give straight answers on tours to what's going on with equipment, long time members are constantly confused, dangerous changes are made without any input, and even members of the committee can't get answers. The committee inbox is bone dry as well.

Regards

~Tails

K/J/T Hartnett

DMS Board of Directors

Volunteer Metalworking, Machining, Automotive, and Laser Instructor

On Wed, Sep 15, 2021 at 11:08 AM Tails Hartnett <hon1nbo@dallasmakerspace.org> wrote:

Despite attempts to get the committee to manage their affairs, or at least take a chance to explain what's going on, the current leadership of metal shop has not resolved any outstanding issues.

Most of the issues I've outlined in this talk thread where I attempted to have anyone from the committee resolve any of them. So far the only issue resolved has been the meeting time was updated on the wiki.

We are supposed to vote on a major purchase but the chair has not submitted minutes. The chair, through second hand people, has indicated "trouble" posting to the wiki but has thusfar refused any offers of help with resolution of issues nor willing to discuss any metal shop affairs openly or in writing.

This is in addition to the dramatic change from open-collaboration that allowed metal shop to grow as it had, to secret closed-door discussions. Previously, we had already had a stern talk with the chair about actions such as silently removing people from committee lists to deter discussion, and attempts to circumvent committee votes.

Refusal to submit minutes is akin to attempting a "pocket veto" from my perspective; the chair has made no secret of their personal disdain for the powder coating oven being present in the

committee.

This additionally does not help with the vapor hone, which maintenance for has suffered. Whilst the recent failure was likely unrelated, the lack of proper management when performing vanity projects* such as the grinder table to water getting into mains electrical outlets that would have previously been splash protected.

Additional electrical concerns pertain to the unlocking of the locked dust covered outlets. These were locked for a multitude of reasons, which included safety as prior to their installation we had a number of outlets which had arcover incidents and shorts. These were requested explicitly by the fire marshal on a surprise inspection. We found that when installed members would routinely unplug important equipment (which is a hard problem in some spaces as these outlets are located behind machinery bolted to the floor), but the equipment would not be returned to a powered state and the box would be left open. I found last night that the dust collector for the room had been disconnected during this so someone could plug in an extension cord rather than use an existing outlet on the table approximately 3 feet away. Only the committee is supposed to have access to the keys for unlocking these boxes.

There are additional concerns such as the sudden storing of equipment outside of the shop. Whilst there has already been an existing and mutually beneficial arrangement with Logistics for some sheet metal tools to be located outside the shop, underneath existing pallet shelving floorspace, more equipment has been wheeled out and stored in the old machine shop area. The only rumor as to why is it *might* be related to painting the shop, however the equipment removed did not open any available wall space for painting and new equipment such as the grinder table has obstructed additional wall space for a net loss of available space to paint. Among this equipment was the water buffalo used for filling water buckets for dust collection when using the grinders and sanders.

Lastly, members have repeatedly come to me with complaints and confusion about all the sudden changes with zero open discussion nor documentation on Talk, the wiki, etc. (most of them came to me since they assumed I'd know either because they thought I was still chair or since I'm very active in metal shop, but even as a very active committee member and shop user have no clue as to the plans)

As for specific action to remediate this, I'm uncertain besides the option of removing current leadership. We've warned them before to get affairs in order and that warning seems to be unheeded. If there are other suggestions I'd like to hear them as I prefer to leave removal of a chair or vice chair to last resort.

Due to my heavy involvement in that committee, to which I have some personal attachment after growing it for almost the entire duration of my membership, and the personal slights Charles has made against me such as removal from committee mailing lists, I will not propose any motions myself and will abstain from any votes or decisions made.

Regards,
~Tails

* I use vanity project as the description as no member has complained about the grinder stands, they've operated exceptionally well, and the thread describing the table build only after it happened indicated it was because of the chair's opinion that "we're a metal shop, we shouldn't have any wood things"

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K/J/T Hartnett

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