

The 2009 Executive has determined their focus for this year will be on the following directives:

- 1) Membership & Recruitment
- 2) Women's Outreach
- 3) Community Building
- 4) Volunteers & Leadership
- 5) TIPC



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## **TOWN HALL MEETING Minutes – September 16, 2009**

**Location: O'Gradys on Church**

**Secretary: Tedd Konya**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER by Jason 7:05PM (chaired by Inti after candidate questions)**

### **2. MEETING ATTENDEES & REGRETS**

#### **Present:**

Jason Wilcox – Commissioner  
Tedd Konya – Secretary  
Tara Vinodrai – Women's Representative / League Ombudsperson  
Kent Williams – Membership Coordinator  
League Members - David P, Ed V, Chris H, Steve L, Malcolm M, Shane B, Jordan S, Meghan G, Erin W, Amanda S, Garry C, Mike L, Terry S, Matthu S, Ben M, Jon H, Daniel T, Colin S, Inti A, Jaime C, Ryan L

#### **Regrets:**

Kephra Senett – Communications Officer / Vice-Commissioner  
Clay Knight – League Operations Coordinator

### **3. 2010 EXECUTIVE CANDIDATE STATEMENT**

- The candidate for the acclaimed positions provided a brief statement about why they wanted to run for their particular position. The candidates are:

- Commissioner – Steve Lloyd
- Treasurer – Daniel Tourangeau
- Secretary – Tedd Konya
- Women's Representative/League Ombudsman – Tara Vinodrai
- Vice Commissioner/Communications – Kephra Senett (not present)

- The candidate for the contested positions provided a brief statement about why they wanted to run for their particular position. The candidates are:

- Events & Fundraising Coordinator
  - Shane Butner
  - Jon Hazell
  - Ben Montgomery
- Operations Coordinator
  - Chris Henderson
  - Ed Van Ekeris
- Membership Coordinator
  - Jordan Stewart
  - Amanda Stocks

#### 4. QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

- What do you foresee as their greatest challenge in the upcoming year and how are you best to handle it?
  - Ben stated that there is a loss of community and he would need to bring that back by instituting change in how the Events & Fundraising position is run. He has a lot of experience planning events
  - Jordan said time management is a difficulty but planning in advance is key to solving it
  - Ed stated that rescheduling cancelled games will need to be done quicker
  - Chris stated he is great at planning and organizing in advance which will help the logistics of the Operations positions
  - Amanda stated trust is an issue lately on the executive (whom have handled it well) but need to bring the trust back. She also wants to build momentum in the community for building trust.
  - Jon also thinks building a stronger community is a challenge and also wants to build communications within the larger gay community, including the sponsors. He feels the Events & Fundraising position needs to be able to manage other people when planning fundraising events and he has management experience for this. He has also organized company parties and university events.
  - Shane said he has experience organizing TIPC and other DST executive events and already knows the difficulties that exist with the position and league. He would like to continue working with an events committee and cut back fundraising to 1 large event and bring back more social-only events.
    - Ben added that he agrees with eliminating the team-run fundraisers
  - Daniel added to restoring the trust and confidence with the sponsors. He also stated that he continued to add his support to the executive even after learning the difficulties that will be faced by the new Treasurer in light of the investigation
- What is your view on keeping the league as recreational and not as competitive?
  - Steve stated his experience on the executive when thoughts about forming a competitive stream were brought up but he does not support that for this year. He wants the league to run recreationally and be fun, fair, and financially doable. Once that has been accomplished then talks can begin about a competitive stream
  - Amanda said she joined the league because she had a bad experience with competitive leagues. She enjoys the draft process and the fairness of the league and that is why she wants to be on the Executive. As for the competitive option she says there are other options but the recreational nature of the league needs to be expressed to the members from the top.
  - Jordan likes the diversity of the league and fairness. He likes that new ideas can be introduced and then changed for next year if it doesn't work.
  - Ben added that the league lost its community feel so that is why some people come to play only and that makes it appear more competitive. It is up to the captains to manage the attitudes of players.
  - Jon does not think the league is ready for a competitive stream yet. He wants to focus on having fun because some people have not had fun during the first experience with DST. He wants to include a Friends & Family Day.
    - Tedd added that the Friends & Family Day has traditionally been done but circumstances this year allowed it to be missed.
- Jason closed the questioning period by thanking the candidates for running and was heartened by the amount of response.

## 5. GENERAL QUESTIONS FOR THE 2009 EXECUTIVE

- It was noted that Clay and Kephra were not able to be present for tonight's meeting
- Inti explained the question/answer process
- Mike L (Woody's) asked what didn't work this year that the Executive was hoping would.
  - Jason pointed to the directives that were the focus of the executive throughout the term. He said many things were accomplished in each but could have done more
    - Membership & Recruitment: Healthy waiting list was a big accomplishment
    - Women's outreach: Tara said there was initial success with recruitment but retention became an issue. Kent added that our goal was 25% but we fell a little short
    - Community Building: Made strides this year but a lots more work needs to be done. One big plus was bringing back Trailer Trash weekend and we had a lot of events even though most were fundraising. We would have liked people to stay at the field longer during the day. Tedd stated some teams had stronger community than others and it is very hard to get 200+ people to come together as a community.
    - Volunteer & Leadership: Goal was to have contested position and that has increased. We still need to improve volunteer participation during games (i.e. – Lines)
    - TIPC: The task force is all volunteers and they ran a great tournament despite all the challenges this year.
- Amanda (Crews & Tango) liked TIPC being all at the same location this year and requests that it be kept like that for next year. What was the secret to having such a robust waiting list?
  - Kent stated increased advertising (soccer balls) helped and were dropped off at locations outside the village; also created executive tent cards this year. The U of T list serves were new. Areas attended by mostly females were targeted as recruitment areas.
- Jon H (Woody's) noted there were lots of hurdles this year, but outside the big 3, what was the biggest?
  - Jason said his learning curve because it took 3 months to really find his groove. The veteran members on the executive were a big help.
  - Tedd said planning and coordinating the 5 team fundraisers because of the amount of time it takes.
  - Tara stated communication within the executive is a challenge if everyone is not kept in the loop.
  - Kent said it was starting from the ground-up because he was not given much information in the transition; he had to learn a lot from scratch.
- Ben M (Crews & Tango), what do you recommend to combat losing members during the season?
  - Kent stated the reasons for most members leaving were injury or loss of commitment to the league.

- Ben asked if people can be screened in the recruitment process to deter this.  
→ Inti said it's hard to figure that out and it's really more about making people feel part of the community.
- Tara added that the captains need to deliver the message from the executive
- Jordan S (Zone), is there an executive handover process?
  - Jason said last year the new people met with the outgoing person in private and there was a group transition meeting. The intent is to have a similar meeting this year. Tedd has also worked on building and maintaining the portfolio records to assist this process.
- Matt S (Zone), do you think the 2 former executive members from this year will come back to the league?
  - Tara stated John's response to her after his resignation
  - Tara explained that membership decisions are made on an annual basis, but that the outgoing executive can make recommendations to the incoming executive. Tara noted that the two executive resignations reflect two very different circumstances. John resigned and voluntarily decided to leave the league despite being asked by the Executive to remain a member. Tara explained that Hamal was removed from the league by the Executive due to the on-going investigation into league finances and that language in the constitution may prevent him from becoming a member in the future
- Jon H (Woody's), are there plans to use more social networking sites?
  - Jason said Facebook is an unofficial group that is used by the league.
  - Tedd stated that there was discussion this year about using Twitter but decided against using it because it was unclear what the benefit would be
- Jordan S (Zone), why is there a lack of cooperation with other gay sports groups?
  - Jason has represented the league at Toronto Sports Alliance meetings. This group is working to build connections between the various sports leagues.
- Inti provided closing remarks

**6. ADJOURNMENT**  
**Time – 8:22PM**