

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 26, 2011 (3:00 - 5:30 PM)

Location: Jarvis Collegiate Institute, cafeteria (495 Jarvis Street, Toronto)

Secretary: Noelle Carbone

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION (3:25)

- introduction by Tedd
- introduction of Executive Members

Present:

Tedd Konya – Commissioner
Josh Bertram – Treasurer
Jody Schultz – Membership Coordinator
Avery Miller – Communications Officer
Ed Van Ekeris – League Operations Coordinator
Kent Williams – Events & Fundraising Coordinator (2000)

Regrets:

Tara Vinodrai – Women’s Representative / League Ombudsperson

2. EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS

- 2.1 Commissioner (Tedd)
- TIPC: dates announced June 17-19, 2011
 - Registration details:
 - Early Bird registration = \$95 from April 1 - April 30
 - Registration = \$115 from April 30 - May 31
 - Late registration = \$135 from June 1-16
 - Team registration deadline = May 31
 - tournament location Scarborough - L'Amoreaux Park South (3 fields)
 - transportation shuttles on Sunday (TBC)
 - Friday night registration event at Crews & Tango
 - Saturday banquet at Honey Bistro (TBC)

- Host hotel Metro Hotel, group rates of \$119 (TBC)
- Fab & Xtra to cover the event
- interested “Fab Boy” cover models should contact Jody
- looking for billeting options

2.2 Communications Officer (Avery)

- website updates:
 - integrating DST website with tools we already use (scheduling software Google Calendar, Outlook, FB, Gmail)
 - league schedule will be easily downloadable to smartphone or aforementioned tools
 - logging in to social media sites or Gmail will also connect members to their DST account - one login for all, to cut down on lost passwords
 - minimize emails – toolbar for browser window if you have new messages from your captain or team or the league
- player re-assessment and new player assessment: re-evaluating way we assess/re-assess – come up with better way with clearer guidelines
- we will be asking members to upload headshots to their personal account; these headshots will be used internally to put a face to a name for the purposes of assessments, discipline, captain suggestions, etc;
- with player’s permission we will be adding the photos to team roster
- members can upload their own photos or exec will take photos (TBC)
- it will be mandatory to supply photo, but not mandatory to have it appear on the website

2.3 Treasurer (Josh)

- reconciled all cheques and all accounts from 2010 season
- currently a healthy cash flow in DST bank account
- CIBC bank account closed off; BMO is our only bank now (\$72 in savings by consolidating accounts)
- league budget is set; small surplus expected with addition of BMO sponsorship (all surplus funds will go toward Withrow Park field improvements)
- TIPC budget is still in draft format
- BMO balance (get number from Josh)

2.4 Secretary (Noelle)

- online data storage implemented to make transitions from year-to-year easier and more efficient for executive members; will ensure that no data is lost during executive transitions
- compiling information for Captain’s Packages (administrative and coaching tools to assist incoming captains)
- keeping members updated on Executive’s discussions and decisions by posting meeting minutes on DST website: minutes are available under “governance” tab in members-only area

- 2.5 Women's Representative / League Ombudsperson (Tara, via other Exec members)
- assisted Kent in drafting the BMO sponsorship proposal
 - assisting Ed in drafting Jays Care Foundation application
 - is looking at registration statistics of returning players – e.g. how many women are coming back; will get feedback from non-returning members and feedback from women's participation
- 2.6 Membership Coordinator (Jody)
- Admiral uniforms have been selected; unis will including shorts
 - no advertising for new members this year
 - 108 returning members have registered thus far
 - review of new protocol for open registration (lottery format)
 - *Question from the membership: Matt - Will we be providing a registration location that's not a bar (for cultural or lifestyle reasons)*
 - ACTION ITEM (NOELLE): PUT THIS ITEM ON AGENDA TO BE DISCUSSED FOR FUTURE DST EVENTS (AND NEXT YEAR'S REGISTRATION EVENTS)
- 2.7 League Operations Coordinator (Ed)
- Season will begin May 15, 2011; there will be 15 regular season games and 3 days for playoffs and/or rained-out games
 - we will be following a 2 day playoff format; playoff format will be tweaked (with input of Simon Thompson)
 - skills clinics:
 - we will not be hiring pros this year (cost saving measure as instructors cost \$1000 last year);
 - we will be looking from within membership for volunteers
 - playoff fields:
 - Ed negotiating with the team that holds September permit for Withrow Park; they will grant us use of the park if it's not being used by them
 - Riverdale East is backup plan
 - permits are in place for the season
 - we will be using the same refs as last year; 2010 TIPC refs will also be contacted to participate because we received very positive feedback regarding their performances
 - schedule will be similar to last year's with long weekend games being played on Mondays and other games taking place on Sunday between 10 & 5:30

- field improvements:
 - Ed has been working closely with the City of Toronto to regarding field improvements to Withrow Park
 - in October we called Sandra Bussin, city counsellor for the ward that Withrow Park is in; we were directed to the City's Partnership Office because they can coordinate a cooperative effort to fix the field
 - Partnership Office informed us that the city doesn't have money in their parks budget to fix the field themselves
 - initially we were told that the fix would cost \$5,000, but that didn't include solutions that would be permanent because the field is too far-gone to just patch or resod (note: the city will be resodding the field as they do every year; but this is not a permanent solution to the problem because the dirt is too compacted for the grass seed to take root permanently)
 - it will cost \$30,000 to fix the field properly (but this is still not permanent); the city committed to covering \$20,000 of that cost; Pink Turf has committed to raising \$5,000 and DST would provide the remaining \$5,000
 - but in order to fix the field permanently, the city parks supervisor has reported that a \$60,000 repair is required (cost of crowning the field, installing sprinklers, removing the goal posts and fencing off the field during the off season)
 - the city has also discussed converting Withrow Park to a turf field but that is a million dollar project that hasn't gained any traction over the years
 - grants and sponsorships:
 - BMO was not interested in sponsoring the field repair
 - application to Jays Care Foundation was rejected
 - the Trillium Foundation does not have a lot of money for this type of project; Maple Leaf Sports (who rebuilt the hockey rink at Withrow) had Withrow on their short-list of parks to revamp but the fields were overlooked
 - Ed currently negotiating with Sunlife on possible partnership
 - other options for fields: all Class A city fields are booked well in advance and priority permitted is given to leagues with current permits and youth leagues; Cherry Beach booked before they were built
 - adult recreation leagues are low on the totem pole – field priority goes to children's leagues
 - summary: we have a great park, we just need to fix it and the price tag is \$60,000
 - *Comment from the membership: Gord - suggests approaching neighbourhood community/committee and/or private individuals to contribute to the revitalization of a heritage park a heritage neighbourhood*
 - ACTION ITEM (ED): LOOK INTO GORD'S SUGGESTION

- *Comment from the membership: Matt – suggests approach Community One (grants for queer organizations); or other leagues that use park*
- we have attempted to find out which other teams/leagues use the park but with the city's privacy laws, they will not release the names; although we do know that the gay flag football league as well as Pink Turf women's league also use the field (flag football league is very small and PT has already offered their support)
- *Comment from the membership: Terry – suggests forming a Field Subcommittee to handle this project*
- the 2010 Executive solicited for volunteers for a Field Subcommittee last year and only one volunteer stepped forward
- *Question from the membership: Simon – have we looked into using a special park solely for playoffs?*
- we looked into Lamport Stadium but it was very cost-prohibitive considering the amount of money that would be spent on one field for 3 games; that money could be put toward the field improvement which would benefit the league for every game year after year
- *Question from the membership: Matt – suggests contacting the local varsity teams; they run clinics at a reasonable rate as fundraisers for their varsity teams*
- ACTION ITEM (ED): CONTACT VARSITY TEAMS REGARDING DST SKILLS CLINICS

2.8 Events and Fundraising Coordinator (Kent)

- 10 team sponsors secured: Carlsberg, Tequila Rose, Dr. Kevin Russelo, Pegasus, Polar Ice, David Palumbo, David Coffey real estate, Churchmouse & Firkin, Woody's and Sailor
- secured league wide sponsorship from BMO
- Draft Night: Friday, May 13, 2011 @ Woody's
- New Member Reg:
 - Women's registration on April 3 @ Pegasus from 2-5
 - Open Registration on April 10 @ Churchmouse & Firkin from 2-5
- Carlsberg will again be hosting our Pride parade float
- survey results indicate league would like to have more events at the field and Kent is working on that (e.g. Carlsberg also looking to sponsor our first game at the field)
- members will receive a Churchmouse & Firkin discount meal card at the first regular season game
- in discussion with Adidas downtown regarding holding a DST discount day at the end of April
- Radisson Harbourfront has been secured for the end of year banquet but we are also investigating alternative options

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 World Out Games in Vancouver

- GORD, as a member of GLISA's (Gay and Lesbian International Sports Association) Human Rights Committee and Toronto Liaison for World Out Games in Vancouver, will field any questions or comments regarding tournament; please direct all tournament questions to Gord.
- *Comment from the membership: Matt – Shane is putting together a team for Vancouver. Players who are looking for a team should also contact Shane.*

4. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP

- CRISTINA: *Can we make changes to how the League Practices are run?*
 - Ed: the issue with league practice is that not all teams want to run a team practice or attend a league practice
 - Cristina: suggests making practices more of an event, more organized to increase turnout; i.e. each Thursday one team will host the practice (get as many of their team members to come out as possible to ensure numbers are enough to have an adequate practice / scrimmage); more experienced players (not necessarily the captains) can decide the format and run the drills
 - Ed: we could start a Facebook group (or use the DST FB page) to get excitement going for Thursday night, to list the practice "agenda" and have participants RSVP so you know who is attending, what will be happening, etc.
The team that's responsible for bringing the equipment could be the practice's "team sponsor" each week
 - Gord: there is an intimidation factor for new players or players who haven't played in a while; perhaps the first couple of Thursday night practices should be "Soccer 101" practices where players can come out, bring their questions and the agenda for the practice will be going over the basics, meet and greet, etc.
- GORD: *There have been grumbling around moving people from the waiting list onto the field, that it's not fast enough. Is there a way to resolve this problem or new strategies that can be implemented?*
 - Jody reviews the protocol Amanda developed for the 2010 season and suggests shortening time period in which contacted waiting list players have to respond
 - this suggestion will be added to the agenda of the next DST meeting.
- MATT: *What is the summer schedule regarding special events (Pride, TIPC) and long weekends?*
 - ED: taking into consideration the results of the 2010 end-of-year survey per the schedule, the 2011 season schedule is the same – i.e. games that fall on long weekends will be played on Mondays; no games will be played the weekend of TIPC (June 19) or Pride (July 3).
- MATT: *Can the registration price be reduced for waiting list players who join late in the season (to entice waiting list players to register and respond quicker)?*
 - TEDD: The registration price is dropped halfway through the season to \$95 (the same price for non-playing members); this cost covers the price of a jersey, banquet ticket, field permits, etc.

- CRISTINA: *Can the league store the equipment at Withrow for easier access to equipment for league practices and games?*
- NOELLE: We have looked into this in the past; the city will not grant us access to storage facilities on site
- in the past we solicited league members who live in the area to donate some of their residential/garage space, but no suitable secure option surfaced

5. ADJOURNMENT (4:23)