

## Tech Valley Game Space Meeting Notes for 10/14/2020

The regular meeting of the Tech Valley Game Space Board of Directors was held on Wednesday 10/14/2020 at 6:04pm.

The following members of the board were in attendance via teleconference:

Taro Omiya

Frederika Edgington-Giordano (Secretary)

Jamey Stevenson (Interim Executive Director)

Neil Yoshi Alers

Dan Tanguay

We have a quorum!

The meeting notes for the two previous meetings were reviewed.

Laquana Cooke joined the meeting.

The meeting notes for both of the previous meetings were approved.

The grant execution deadline was discussed. With two months left, should TVGS go ahead with grant execution for this year.

Laquana dropped off the call very briefly.

Jamey summarized the situation with the grant. He reached out to Ben Chang and discussed with him what TVGS needs to do. The documentation was submitted to RPI after the last TVGS board meeting. RPI is currently waiting on NYSTAR and the contract is frozen at the moment, along with other contracts (for other organizations other than TVGS). Ben Chang suggested that they were waiting on the election results before contracts would move forward. There is nothing for TVGS to do at this time.

Potential options and questions on how to proceed were discussed. What happens if we get the budget in December 2020? It would be too late to execute. A discussion with Ben would be needed and messaging would be important, as TVGS would still want money for next year. For now, TVGS may want to act like there won't be funds for the budget for this year as it is a safer bet. Jamey to ask Ben and RPI for more information, including: Is there any possibility of extending the period of work? If so, how long would the extension be for?

Planning virtual events for the foreseeable future was touched on.

Scenarios where TVGS would receive the money after November 4<sup>th</sup> could be discussed, including the case where TVGS would be granted a time extension to spend the money.

Setting expectations with the possibility that we will have to go in 'hibernation mode' was touched on.

## Tech Valley Game Space Meeting Notes for 10/14/2020

It would help with planning if we were to set a cutoff date for accepting the award. We would only be able to do the equipment and software purchases, without an extension. It is also possible that not even those could be completed, depending on the date the grant will be available.

Leaving off marketing agency and the promotional budget was suggested. No one objected.

The previous status and progress with the grant were discussed for context. Questions about whether the grant would be still available if we refuse it this year were discussed.

Another grant has been suggested by Ben Chang. Jamey will be following up on this.

There are two options that would need to be considered:

Option 1 – Only purchasing equipment with the grant money and leaving off the budget items due to a lack of time. What is the deadline we would need for getting equipment?

Option 2 – Refuse the grant money if there is no option for getting an extension.

It was agreed that messaging should be positive. First ask if an extension is possible. If not, communicate the deadline for TVGS being able to only buy equipment and software with the grant money.

At least 3 months' extension would be needed.

It is possible that an answer on whether or not the grant will be available will likely be known around mid-November. If TVGS can get an answer early November, maybe we could just do equipment/software.

It was agreed that the next board meeting would be the cutoff and an emergency meeting would be called if the timeline was significantly sooner than expected.

A broader strategy for funding was discussed. The fundraising committee should be organizing soon. Focusing on other types of grants, including federal, private grants, was discussed.

#GivingTuesday on Facebook was brought up. It is on December 1<sup>st</sup> this year. Jason, Ela, and Taro had raised money using this before.

Membership tiers and payment were discussed. Mid-level tier perks are not being well-executed or followed through currently. Access to digital media not necessarily being provided. Should we continue with the higher tiers or sunset them? The outward facing TV is down, Orbit group assets are not being provided, featured game dev not being done, etc. Workshops and paid events are not being hosted. No members have mentioned these benefits. Should we reduce what we are promising? Would need to communicate it to the members. The two different payment structures that are in place are also causing some issues.

A proposal for how to correct this issue is needed. Taro has an action item to gather information on sign-ups for each tier and draft a proposal where payments should be coming from. Jase, Taro, and Jamey will discuss once the research is completed.

## Tech Valley Game Space Meeting Notes for 10/14/2020

The TVCOG MOU documentation was discussed. There has been no news since last month. Should TVCOG or TVGS do the first draft? There would need to be legal review either way. TVCOG offered to do it recently. There have been many prior discussions, so there are notes from these discussions. Jamey offered to post them on Discord. Next step will be to send the document to Waggoner to review. Motion to have TVCOG do the first draft passed.

The educational content and curricula was discussed next. There is an action item for Jamey to look into the legal side. He will be meeting with the Small Business Law clinic at UAlbany tomorrow night. This is the first step towards licensing the material in the future.

Jamey asked if anyone has questions, they would like to include in that meeting. This will be taken offline. Other meetings are possible in the future. Consider payment and pricing amounts for the materials.

The contractors are still working on the curricula. Jamey will follow up with them.

Jamey will put up a link on the chat with the questions to be asked for a jumping off point.

This may be useful for the future grant opportunity mentioned by Ben Chang.

The TVGS #MeToo response was discussed next. Taro will work on it and then take it to the volunteer team.

Next was an update from Dan on strategic planning. There has been no progress, this is just a reminder and a renewed push for SWOT. This could be done asynchronously via the Discord chat. Ideally, we could do this by the end of the year. Taking the lead on this is an action item for Dan.

The meeting was adjourned.



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Frederika Edgington-Giordano, Secretary of the Board