

Tech Valley Game Space Meeting Notes for 6/10/2020

The regular meeting of the Tech Valley Game Space Board of Directors was held on Wednesday 6/10/2020 at 6:05pm.

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

Taro Omiya

Frederika Edgington-Giordano (Secretary)

Jamey Stevenson (Interim Executive Director)

Mitchell Patterson

Neil Yoshi Alers

The notes from the previous meeting were reviewed, Taro made some corrections to name spellings, and they were approved.

The planned reopening for COVID-19 was discussed. Jamey met with Cheryl at TVCOG to discuss. Jamey shared his screen to review information from TVCOG. The space has been opened to coworkers. Some safeguards and procedures are in place (occupancy limits, plastic guards, etc.) No Visitors are allowed. Access to the Community and Board rooms is not allowed. Temperature checks are in place when entering and leaving, along with requiring signed documentation from those who enter the space. We have not passed the information on, but it appears that members have received the emails from TVCOG. TVGS might want to send out an email to remind/re-enforce the information in the email from TVCOG.

Jamey brought up TVCOG's offer for a dedicated space. Jamey thinks this seems to be related to TVCOG's need to reconfigure their space to comply with COVID-19 related requirements.

The BLM response was discussed next. TVGS has posted a statement of support on Facebook. Doing more was discussed, including reaching out to more organizations to continue this work. Lift Off! and other currently planned events were discussed. Organizing events with other groups was discussed, including education program for minorities, inviting/reaching out to minority organizations with information about existing TVGS programs or potential joint events, having an event with IGDA for game executives with an expert on increasing diversity. Some local organizations were discussed as possible partners, including Hopeworks, YWCA, Tinkerfiddle, Hope 7, and Fifth Family. Deciding who to reach out to for this effort was discussed. Action item for Jamey and Mitchell, creating a Google Doc for recording potential organizations to reach out to and posting it to the board discord chat for review and suggestions.

Posting information about local game companies own by African-Americans was discussed. Frederika brought this up while acknowledging her relationship with Queenship Game Studio. There was a similar list posted by IGDA Albany. Game Devs of Color were streaming games created by POC. Fundraising with signal boosting local POC game creators was discussed.

Changes to the bylaws were discussed. The Volunteer Coordinator responsibilities will be documented separately, but linked in the bylaws. The changes were approved.

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Summer classes were discussed next. The Arts Center is running online only summer camps in July and moving to in-person summer camp classes. They have been asking about our availability. Whether or not we are sending a contractor to the site was discussed. Previously, the Arts Center has only directly hired instructors in the past year. Jamey has an action item to reach out to Arts Center and ask about (1) running online only classes for game development and (2) whether they are directly hiring or are willing to have TVGS contract with the instructor. The issues surrounding the TVGS contracting policy was discussed.

The next item discussed was the summer program with VV and QUESTAR BOCES. They are asking for assistance with storage tools, but other help may be needed/welcome. Jamey is meeting with them tomorrow and welcomes any feedback. Taro suggested helping with recruiting volunteers. Curriculum development was discussed as a possible way for TVGS to assist.

Moving to the TVCOG mezzanine was discussed next. The benefits to moving to this area is to have storage and potentially make it more accessible. This only includes the one office with the missing wall. There are concerns with the VR setup in this space, given the fall risk and that the equipment might not work there. Asking about having the VR area elsewhere was discussed. Coworkers would have access to the rest of space as they do now. Getting furniture was discussed, TVCOG might provide tables. The positioning with respect to the Thinqubator was discussed. Noise level was discussed. Streaming was discussed. Space would be for storage and administrative work. Use of the space would be minimal. Questions for Jamey had been posted in the board channel, he will post answers to these and previous questions, and there will be an emergency meeting to decide whether or not to accept the offer from TVCOG.

The remaining agenda items were listed out quickly, just to touch on them.

Jamey gave an update on the Shared Drive migration. The deadline may be pushed back because it is taking longer.

TVGS is still looking for suggestions on the theme for the year.

The call for new volunteer coordinators is recorded and handled in Trello.

The link to the Updated Event schedule post was put in the chat and discussed. The Google calendar was discussed, and it may require further discussion offline.

The meeting was adjourned.



Frederika Edgington-Giordano, Secretary of the Board