

Tech Valley Game Space Meeting Notes for 8/12/2020

The regular meeting of the Tech Valley Game Space Board of Directors was held on Wednesday 8/12/2020 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)

Neil Yoshi Alers

Mitchell Patterson

Dan Tanguay

Quorum was reached!

The meeting notes for the two previous meetings (6/10/2020 and 7/8/2020) were reviewed and approved.

Taro reported that he wrote the email asking for help with TVGS's response to #MeToo which was mentioned in the notes.

The next item was a discussion of the Volunteer Coordinator election/nomination results. Only Jamey and Taro signed up, so there is no need to hold an election. Jamey signed up for the Mentorship coordinator position and Taro signed up for the Web Coordinator. This leaves six positions open: Events, Outreach, Communications, Fundraising, Coworking, and Media.

Finding people to cover these positions and what the priority was for filling each open position. The highest priority positions would be Communications and Events. Fundraising could be addressed by the board. The rest of the positions would be a lower priority, since they have been vacant before.

Taro had issues with his audio.

Finding individuals to cover the volunteering coordinator positions was discussed. There are unique challenges with the current state of affairs. College students are not available due to COVID/Summer. Previous volunteers were discussed, in terms of the slots and in terms of engagement.

Action item - Make a list of potential candidates to reach out to for their availability/willingness to volunteer.

Attendance/engagement was discussed with regards to new members of the community. Some events have had regular attendance, between 5 and 10. Some new people, but they haven't been regular attendees.

Some previous attendees have come back with the switch to virtual events.

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Frederika to reach out to some attendees she knows – it might be better for people to reach out to individuals that they know personally.

Jamey posted a starter list of people to reach out to.

The next item discussed was the current status of the physical space. TVCOG has updated their safety pledge. It is very similar to previous iterations, but guests are allowed under very narrow exceptions. Taro posted the updated TVCOG policies in the chat.

The budget was discussed next. Taro and Jamey discussed the changes to be made in light of the COVID situation.

The budget has not been approved by RPI. There was re-iteration of the issues with the budget and Statement of Work. Less stress and burnout were concerns, so adjustments were made so that we would not ‘cram’ stuff in towards the end of the year.

The scope of the budget has been reduced. Lift Off and Protostar will not be held this year, and would be brought back next year. The Education budget was also reduced. Promotion and software were kept the same. There was an increase for the Hardware budget, in order to get storage solutions and security within the mezzanine space. The budget for finding other sources of funding was discussed. It has been revised based on a quote from a fundraising agency suggested by Stacy, Nancy Warner.

RPI has not yet been notified of these changes. Amanda Kirk has left her position and Ben Chang is not easy to get a hold of. Jamey is trying to get a meeting to discuss the updated budget.

The Letter of Intent was reviewed next, no changes had been made to it.

The Statement of Work was reviewed next, additional metrics had been requested and were added in. Fundraising and press coverage were added to the report. Reports will be quarterly instead of biannual, per RPI's request.

Items that were removed from the budget were removed from the letter.

The equipment section to explain the increase to the budget.

TVGS's COVID approach is discussed as well. More references to online programs were discussed and added to the document.

Some of the funding will be in advance for Nancy Warner, similar to how the contracts for the curriculum development was handled last year.

All three documents were approved. They will be sent out to RPI.

The mezzanine was discussed next. The answers from TVCOG were posted to the chat. This would involve moving almost all the TVGS equipment into that office.

Nothing is being signed. The usage of the space and equipment was discussed.

Moving to the mezzanine was approved.

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Action item for Taro - Scheduling people to move the equipment into the mezzanine.

The TVGS response to #MeToo was discussed in more detail. Taro emailed after last meeting, but did not get any responses. Take a Stand program does not seem to still be active. Frederika to continue looking for similar resources online. Creating a document for the response. Taro has an action item to start a document.

Hopeworks and licensing curriculum was discussed next. Programs are planned for next year. They are looking for a response soon. Stacy had recommendations on attorneys to meet with to discuss how this should be handled.

Jamey to ask lawyers which TVGS had paid previously. Jamey to reach out to them and to some free legal organizations.

Jamey had an update on the VV/Questar Externship program. He continues to work with them and has shared publicly posted resources from TVGS. He is looking for suggestions on other things we can do with them.

The Fundraising committee revival was discussed. The purpose is to bring together board members who have experience with fundraising and Jason Harlow, the Treasurer. A Doodle Poll is out to help set up a regular meeting time.

The rest of the agenda items can be added to the chat.

The meeting was adjourned.



Frederika Edgington-Giordano, Secretary of the Board