

The regular meeting of the Tech Valley Game Space Board of Directors was held on Monday 5/10/2021 at 6:00 pm.

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

Taro Omiya (Acting Chair)

Jamey Stevenson (Interim Executive Director)

Jarell Pryor (Acting Secretary, for this meeting)

Joshua Schwartz

Neil Yoshi Alers

Laquana Cooke

A quorum is present at the start of the meeting.

Introduced TVGS Hierarchy to Jarell & Joshua.

Taro confessed that last meeting notes are not accessible at the moment. Plan to continue to work on obtaining them and add it to the next meeting's agenda.

Discussed ideas on electing for open board positions.

Laquana Cooke joined the meeting.

Taro reiterated that he is only an acting chair. And is likely to relocate for his latest career opportunity sometime in the near future, as pandemic eases. While the Vice-Chair position is still vacant.

Joshua is open to applying for that position, and would like more information on the approval process and responsibilities. Before Taro eventually leaves.

Motion to approve Taro as Chair and Joshua as Vice-Chair.

Joshua and Taro exit while discussion is made to approve their appointment.

Appointment is approved by remaining meeting members. While Joshua and Taro have abstained from voting.

Joshua and Taro return to the meeting.

Taro receives minute notes during the meeting, so the agenda is focused back to approving those notes next.

Taro motions to approve the minutes from last meeting. The motion passes. Last meeting's minutes are approved.

Taro clarifies that Dan is not present in this meeting, so it is decided to postpone the Secretary appointment until next meeting.

Next discussion is on the Treasurer position. Jamey explains Jason Harlow's experience and past history as Treasurer. Jason seems to be interested in stepping down as Treasurer. Not urgently, but interested in helping out TVGS more through some of his other skillsets.

Taro clarifies responsibilities for Treasurer position, and Jamey explains the current informal process of regular interactions with Treasurer to give more information.

No immediate volunteers to take that position.

Moving onto the next topic. Jamey gives an update on TVGS' past experience as a recipient of the NYS and RPI Center of Excellence (CoE) grant.

Discussion on receiving a smaller portion of the grant for 2021. While potentially receiving postponed funding for 2020, as grant was paused for 2020. Action item is to formalize the budget for using potential funds.

Joshua leaves the meeting at 7pm.

Continued discussion on CoE grant.

Taro asks a clarifying question on timeline. Discussion continues to think about the time frame of planning the budget as early as possible to align with RPI's schedule and increase likelihood of receiving the funds and being able to use them effectively.

Further discussion on plan for Budget and Statement of Work related to CoE grant.

Jamey is aiming to have a draft of the Budget by May 25th.

More explanation on goals for funding/financials. Primary objective with funding is to stabilize the organization.

Jamey reiterates that he's looking for board member feedback and comments on the documentation before it is finalized. So that it will be able to be approved at the next Board Meeting. Feel free to leave comments on new 2021 draft documents.

Shift focus to organizational budget. Would like to establish the process for drafting and approving an overall budget.

Jamey will share a WIP document of that when it is ready.

Now focusing on discussing educational partnerships for Q2 and Q3.

Jamey is proceeding as planned with the information in the document. To move forward with the BOCES teaching/training in Summer 2021.

Next action item for that is to line up instructors for the training program.

Welcome thoughts on feedback for the intended curriculum, and leads on potential instructors to reach out to.

Focusing on Hopeworks training program. Another Summer 2021 teaching program. For TVGS to provide educational content and instructors. Potential room for guest speakers in the program.

Also discusses Rise High in Fall 2021. Another teaching/training program that is going forward this year.

Hopeworks is a potential hybrid relationship. Possibly not all virtual.

Jarell asks if location is determined or fixed. Jamey clarifies that that is TBD, it has been at Center of Gravity in the past. But will likely not be open this year.

Taro asks about the incentive for instructors. How much would go to them, and how much to TVGS? Curious about the budget allocation with educational partners.

Jamey gives more insight on the training programs and past experiences. And that more feedback is encouraged from board members. Especially those with educational experience.

Shift focus to discuss Bylaw changes. About changing the requirement to establish a process for voting on items outside of board meetings. Yoshi explains that he is still waiting on a response from the Wagoner Firm on that.

Jamey gives a quick recap on financial committee updates.

Most recent focus for finances was tax time and the annual meeting.

Taro gives an update on the draft of a policy for financial negotiations.

Goal with that document is to establish a more formalized and estimable process for dealing with outside business relationships. To smooth everything out a bit more.

Looking for comments and feedback from board members to refine the draft. And make it ready for approval by sometime in the next few board meetings.

Rest of agenda items are moved into the next meeting.

The meeting has been adjourned.



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Jarell Pryor, Acting Secretary for this meeting