

This meeting of the Tech Valley Game Space Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, 2/22/2022 at 6:02 pm.

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

Taro Omiya (Acting Chair of the Board)

Daniel Tanguay (Secretary of the Board)

Jamey Stevenson (Executive Director)

Jarell Pryor

Neil “Yoshi” Alers

A quorum is present at the start of the meeting.

There is a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The Board approves the Consent Agenda.

Taro reminds the Board that we’re seeking new appointees for March 2022. We have less than 1 month to gather nominations. Our working assumption is that we need to appoint 6 members this year. The priorities from last year are relevant, but they are less important than the Board member having the bandwidth to be active. Living in the Capital Region is not a requirement; remote participation is okay.

There are additional updates on this topic. Laquanna’s status remains unknown. Taro plans to reach out to past Board members. Dan will continue to reach out to his contacts; he pursued Matt Nolin, but Matt isn’t available. Taro & Jamey also will follow up with past coordinators for interest.

Dan asks what our contingency plans are if we can’t appoint a full Board, as he’s concerned about seemingly dwindling volunteer resources. The TVGS Bylaws seem to state that Board members can only be appointed by Members, and Members practically only convene once a year. So April is our best chance to appoint a full Board. We also have one vacancy we can appoint for if needed.

Taro reviews the draft of the Mock Public Board Meeting for feedback and requests further review of this draft post-meeting. Taro plans to run this mock after the Annual Board Meeting in May.

Next, the Board begins planning the Annual Members meeting. TVGS Bylaws state that it should be the first weekend in April, which has a conflict with a game jam. Last year, the meeting occurred in the April Community meeting slot (the 20th at 630p). Jamey proposes we do it at that same time this year. The Annual Board Meeting should occur prior to that to review the previous year and prep for the Annual Members meeting. Jamey proposes that we have that meeting at our regular time, but this would require a bylaw change because it happens more than 7 days prior to the Annual Members meeting. Jarell volunteers to propose a Bylaw change for the next Board meeting.

The Board also discusses if there's anything we can do to help Jamey with the Annual Members meeting. Dan offers to help finalize this year's strategy documentation. Taro offers to help with slides. Jamey shares last year's slides for the group to review, and we suspect the "history" section could use iteration to make it easier to digest and more useful for new folks. Jamey proposes using the flyer he made over the summer for the TVGS education events as inspiration.

Neil notes that there has been no progress with Wagoner. This action item requires a new owner; Jamey takes it on.

Jamey updates the Board on Coordinator elections. This coordinator election had minimal sign-ups, with only one role filled: Ethan is now the outreach coordinator. The Board needs to appoint folks for the other critical roles. Jamey volunteers as a mentorship coordinator. While he's getting spread thin, he's the best candidate we have right now. Jamie Brewer seems open to becoming the communication coordinator. She contributes to the Narrative Orbit, has a writing background, is an active group member, and is familiar with the community. This makes her a good fit even though she's a first time coordinator.

There is a motion to approve both candidates to their respective positions. The motion is approved.

Do we have any viable candidates for web coordinator? Taro doesn't have the bandwidth, but he can help troubleshoot website issues that seem to be cropping up. Jamey asks us to continue thinking of potential candidates to fill vacancies in the Coordinator roles as the Board is charged with filling them if elections don't.

There is no update to financial committee scheduling.

Jamey introduces 2022 budget goals. Taro covered the Board's responsibility in the last board meeting, so we don't dive too deeply into it this time. Jamey reminds everyone that we should start planning our fundraisers now. Jamey continues reviewing the rest of the budget. Most of the TVGS money still comes from the Center of Excellence Grant, and that grant is getting reinvested into grant writing and other fundraising. The next biggest amount comes from external classes and activities. Coworking income is trending down, but so do the expenditures that match it. Organizational donations are a big target this year, though they are dependent on working with grant writing and other partners.

Should we pursue an extension for 2021's Center of Excellence Grant? It seems we have an opportunity to do so, but taking both that and 2022's grant carries risk. Much of the grant requires us to match it with in-kind volunteer hours, and our volunteer pool is shallower this year; burnout is a big concern. What is the downside of not taking it? We'll potentially have less curriculum and delayed/scaled down effort for fundraising/grant writing in the first half of the year, with a potential funding glut in the back half of the year. Jamey intends to draft a proposal to RPI and update the budget for the next board meeting.

Taro also reminds the Board of open volunteer positions and initiatives. There are no takers at this time.

Neil asks what our plans for return to in-person meetings are. We discuss the upsides and downsides of in-person depending on the type of event. For example, social nights are hurt by remote participation; other events that are well suited for online seem to be thriving more. Social nights were traditionally a draw, but Social Organizer Chris isn't available to help get those going again. We need volunteers. This is a great topic to continue discussing at a future meeting.

There is a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passes and the meeting is adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel Tanguay", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Daniel Tanguay, TVGS Secretary of the Board