

Team Sydney Inc – Board Paper

This board paper is submitted by: Dave Randall

For acceptance as an agenda item in the meeting to be held on: 18 October 2005

Date: 12 October 2005 – Reissued for meeting on 21 March 2006

Title: Role of FGG Delegate

Portfolios involved: All

Proposed duration: 20 minutes

Estimated financial impact: Nil

Proposed activity or matter for discussion: Define role of FGG delegate, determine expectations of delegate and agree a statement to be minuted.

Obligations inherent in our directorship of the FGG may be in conflict with the aims and objectives of our constitution. Before GLISA and Montreal this barely mattered. It is the conflict between FGG/Chicago and GLISA/Montreal that necessitates a careful look at our position. Richard Hogan has suggested there may be legal ramifications. We need to be careful that we comply with our constitution and support our members. This may involve some fine lines!

The FGG/GLISA conflict has also brought into focus the behaviour, performance and expectations we have of our FGG delegates and I propose we formalise the role.

I believe the following premises are true (you may disagree).

- TS's delegate to the FGG firstly is a representative of TS, its board and its members; secondly a supporter of the FGG and the Gay Games movement.
- Unless also a director of TS, our delegate only represents TS at the FGG and nowhere else.
- As our representative our delegate is obliged to follow TS board direction when it is given.
- When appearing to represent Team Sydney, our delegates must reflect the majority view of the TS board and make it clear that views expressed to the contrary are their own personal views and not those of TS.
- We expect that TS's delegates to the FGG will be fervent supporters of the Gay Games.

Some other considerations –

- The term of appointment for the delegate is determined by the TS board but will not be longer than one year or extend beyond the next Annual General Meeting.
- A condition attached to the role of delegate is that a copy of all correspondence received by him or her is forwarded immediately to the board (we could set up a FGGinfo@teamsydney.org.au for forwarding).
- If we can persuade the FGG to copy the TS board on everything in the first instance that would be better but the previous clause would cover anything that the FGG missed.
- We have never asked an FGG delegate to leave a meeting because we are about to discuss or hear reports from GLISA. However, we may need to adopt this policy (on both sides) in the future.

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- Each of our delegates is required to sit on two FGG committees. They can sit on more if they want to. I suggest that TS directs which two committees a delegate is required to sit on and they then be asked to share information about those committees with the TS board. TS board could then direct the voting on those committees. This would also allow us to choose where we wanted to be represented and not have two delegates on the same committee (unless we deliberately wanted to stack the votes).
- Delegates would be free to do whatever they wanted on committees over and above the two sanctioned by the TS board.
- We should aim for gender parity if two suitable appointees are available as delegates.
- We should investigate what arrangements can be made to advise the FGG of our vote on a particular item at the Annual Meeting for when we have doubts about the delegate following the will of the TS board or its members.

This is Richard Hogan's take on the matter and I have asked him to clarify the legal duty he refers to.

It sounds like you need to produce a document "Guidelines for the Team Sydney voting delegate to the FGG". As a former delegate from Team Sydney, I'd be more than happy to work on that project. This is not a new issue. When I was delegate, and Cathy Very was TS co-president, she suggested I keep the board more informed and seek the board's opinion before I voted. Well, that lasted two months; Cathy and others asked me to NOT continue sharing information with them because they felt overwhelmed with all the FGG material. In my opinion, Team Sydney should select their FGG voting delegates and let them get on with their work. Of course, the TS delegates should give a monthly report to the TS board and if any issues that effect Team Sydney, or its membership arise, the TS board should become involved.

and

I'm pleased to read that you are planning a board paper on the delegate's role. There is too much confusion about the current Team Sydney Board's expectations of it's delegates. I've always supported a policy whereas the voting delegates keep informed of FGG activities, participate in two FGG committees, and make their own informed decision when the need arises. TS's delegates should make a monthly report to the board and an annual report to the membership. They should seek comment from the TS board following their monthly report and should seek comment from the TS membership at least once per year (prior to attending the FGG Annual Meeting). The delegates should be guided by comments / questions they receive from the TS board and membership. The overall guiding principle should be:

FGG directors and delegates (including the officers, directors and members of a FGG director organization) are bound by a legal duty to act in the best interests of the FGG.

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