

Team Sydney Inc – Board Paper

This board paper is submitted by: Jon Baldan

For acceptance as an agenda item in the meeting to be held on: 12 December 2006

Date: 6 December 2006

Title: FGG Annual Meeting Report

Portfolios involved: All

Proposed duration: 10 minutes

Estimated financial impact: \$0

Proposed activity or matter for discussion: No discussion required

The 2006 FGG Annual Meeting was conducted in Lyon from 26-30 November 2006. I attended as one of the delegates of Team Sydney. Most of the items discussed during the meeting were in Open Forum and will be reported in this paper. There were several “in camera” sessions which I attended and these will be reported to the TS Board separately, due to the confidentiality requirements of the FGG.

The purposes of me representing Team Sydney at the meeting were:

- Voting on the proposed by-laws changes and election of new board members to the FGG
- Rebuilding trust between FGG and Team Sydney

I had an initial reluctance to operate as a delegate to the meeting but understood the importance of Team Sydney being adequately represented.

Overall there were approximately 40 delegates and individual directors represented at the meeting.

Day 1

This day was used to have reports delivered by Cologne and Chicago on the Gay Games.

Cologne Report

Cologne presented first. They provided their budget figures showing they are tracking to budget at this point. Some adjustments have been made to the budget as they have not hired any people yet (hence expenses were reduced). Likewise, fundraising has not been as successful as originally proposed so income is also been reduced.

Cologne is focussed on providing an excellent event in 2010 and have aggressively started to market their event. They are looking to relaunch their website in 2007, including the start of registration. They wish to be running their marketing and registration in parallel with the Copenhagen 2009 even so that people have a choice.

Cologne have set up a not-for-profit company under German Law to run the games – gay games cologne gGmbH.

They have had requests for additional sports including rowing, sailing, field hockey and shooting. Feasibility studies will be performed on all these and once complete, Cologne will approach the FGG to adjust the licencing agreement to include those sports which are feasible to run.

Cologne is currently in discussion with various hotels to develop a cooperation concept. An example of this would be for Dancing which would held in a hotel ballroom. The cooperation would include encouraging the dancing competitors to stay in that hotel by offering discounted rates on rooms.

The Cologne Outreach programme will be predominantly aimed at Eastern Europe, although all areas of the world will be included within the programme.

Activities for the coming year for Cologne include approaching German Sports Federations to gain sanctioning, an updated and remodelled website and aggressive marketing towards the Gay and Lesbian Athletes community

Chicago Report

This report was a informal report as the final report on Chicago was required to be presented in early 2007. What was presented was a draft and provided details on the current state of play in Chicago.

At the time of writing the report, Chicago were predicting a deficit of US\$32,000, however, they were working with their outstanding creditors to reduce this amount with the expectation of breaking even or potentially a small surplus.

The Chicago DVD was available at the Annual Meeting and has subsequently been launched generally.

The Sports Programme was critically evaluated and Chicago felt that Track and Field was run very poorly while most events were run very well. They made specific mention of Kate Rowe and her fantastic input in running the Cycling and Triathlon at short notice.

Several recommendations were made by Chicago to the FGG, specifically involving FGG input to the running of the Games moving forward.

Days 2 and 3

These days were spent specifically in the discussion and eventually passing of the new Bylaws. There were 5 different proposals on the table, 1 – do nothing, 2 – proposed new bylaws produced by Strategic Planning Committee, 3 – Proposal by Charlie Carson providing different options for Option 2, 4 – proposal by Rick van Tassell, which provided small changes to existing bylaws (withdrawn prior to discussion), 5 – proposal by Sion O'Connor providing more restrictive detail on Option 2.

Discussion was had both in conference and in private with the end result being that Option 2 with some small amendments was passed – 33 For, 5 Abstentions, 0 Against.

Copies of the new bylaws are now available at the FGG website

Day 4

This day was for Committee Reports and Election of new Board Members. Detailed committee reports are available through the FGG delegates. The significant highlight to come from these reports was from Fundraising which has asked all City Teams to consider holding a 25th Birthday party for the FGG as a fundraising venture for the City Team as well as the FGG. I would propose that this be taken on notice for discussion at a later time for the Team Sydney Board.

Elections were held for all positions which were due for election this year as well as all newly created positions based on the new Bylaws. The results of these elections were:

Male Co-President	Sion O'Connor
VP Host Relations	Emy Ritt
Treasurer	Allan Lessik
Secretary	Charles King
VP Governance	Teresa Galletti
Officer – Communciation	Roger Brigham
Officer – Sports 1	Adelina Santiago
Officer – Technology	Gene Dermody
Officer – Culture	Eddie Young
Female VP – Diversity	Joannie Evans
VP Membership	Paul Oostenbrug
Officer – Sports 2	Michael ZuZu
Officer – Ceremonies	James Busby
Officer – Development	Brent Minor

Day 5

This day was the final day of the meeting and was devoted to the final committee reports, any new or old business and election of Honorary Life Members. 5 new life members were elected:

Richard Cobden, Richard Hogan, Peg Lee, Roberto Mantaci, Manuel Picaud

In addition, Pepe from EGLSF provided a discussion on the role of EGLSF with the FGG. EGLSF is similar to Team Sydney in that it is supporting both GLISA and FGG but unlike Team Sydney is a member of neither organisation. EGLSF are currently in a reflection period for about another 12 months where they will examine which direction is best for EGLSF moving forward.

General Observations

Overall, I felt the meeting was productive for Team Sydney. I networked extensively and felt that the FGG is very keen to have Team Sydney as a member. The trust is slowly being rebuilt between both organisations

The FGG over the next year has confirmed that it needs to market the value of itself not only to its existing membership but also to prospective members.

I have also highlighted to the board that currently they have 1 representative from the Southern Hemisphere on the board and no representatives from the Asia Pacific region. I challenged the board to address this imbalance over the next 12 months if they wish to be known as a truly international organisation.