

International Front Runners

Minutes of the IFR Annual General Meeting - October 2001

The 2001 Annual General Meeting was hosted by Front Runners San Diego and held in San Diego, California USA at the Quality Resort. Carol Clark, one of the FRSD co-chairs opened the Meeting at 9:05 am on Thursday, 4 October, 2001.

A total of 58 participants representing 27 Front Runner clubs attended the IFR 2001 General Meeting.

FR Club: Delegate name(s)

Ann Arbor: Michael Greyer

Arizona: John Goula

Atlanta: Mike Spencer

BayLands: Lon Justice

Boston: Alden Clark

Chicago: Eurika Otto

Denver: Joseph Fowler

Grand Rapids: Bruce Nugent, David Paschke

London: Steven Boyd, Guy Hammond

Los Angeles: Richard Nelson, Bob Platt

Maine: Jim Estes

New York: John Kiley

Orlando: Gary Fracassi, Gary Paskal

Philadelphia: Bill Biskup, Tony Fardella, Amy Sondstein, Mike Zuzu

Palm Springs: Mel Matulsky, Lee Walton

Pittsburgh: David Torrey, Joe Hom

Portland: June Kansopon

Sacramento: James Brown, Jim Evans

San Francisco: Jon Borset, Michael Deleon, Mary Edna Harrell, Katharine Holland, Chuck Louden, Anne Ludwig, Eileen Murphy

San Diego: David Cohen, Garret Demarest, Chuck Goosman, Bob Leyh, Carol Pierce, John Plander, James Straus, Terry Trevino, Jane Venghaus, Darryl White

Shoreline: Brad Miyasato, Brian Eggert

Sonoma County: Jon Eichelberger, John Rochat

Sydney: Wayne Morgan, Lyn McSweeney, John Wall

Traverse City: John Walton

Two Rivers: Roslyn Webber

Utah: Derek Satchell

Washington DC: Ernie Worden

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Thursday, 4 October 2001

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Front Runners San Diego Co-chair Carol Clark opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to San Diego. Clark then introduced San Diego City Councilmember Toni Atkins. Councilmember Atkins represents the 3rd district and is the second open lesbian elected to the City Council. She is a frequent guest of Front Runners San Diego and is active in the gay and lesbian community.

II. OPENING REMARKS BY COUNCILMEMBER TONI ATKINS

Councilmember Atkins welcomed all the delegates to the city of San Diego, "America's Finest City". She encouraged delegates to enjoy the many benefits the City offers such as the San Diego Zoo, the cultural institutions, Hillcrest and other areas, and Balboa Park.

She said she was also representing San Diego Mayor Murphy and the City Council of San Diego in welcoming the delegates. She also read a resolution from the Mayor and City Council in recognition of the IFR Annual Meeting declaring 4 October 2001 as *International Front Runners Day* in the City of San Diego.

Following Councilmember Atkins, FRSD Co-chair Chuck Goosman also welcomed delegates to San Diego.

IFR President Alden Clark thanked the delegates for attending the meeting and also thanked Front Runners San Diego for their working in organizing the meeting. He expressed his hope for a productive meeting and encouraged people to share their thoughts and bring up topics of discussion during the meeting.

For the newer Front Runners members, he encouraged delegates to read the program which includes a history of IFR and information on the San Diego club.

Clark then introduced the IFR Steering Committee members. Clark said that he is the president of IFR, member of Frontrunners Boston and the regional representative of the Eastern United States. He then introduced Gary Fracassi, member of Orlando Front Runners, who is IFR treasurer and serves as US South and Central States representative. Brad Miyasato from Shoreline Frontrunners is the US Western States representative and IFR webmaster. Wayne Morgan, from Sydney Frontrunners is the Southern Hemisphere representative. The committee members unable to attend were Peter Taylor, Toronto Frontrunners who is the Canadian representative; Stefan Huch, from Berlin Frontrunners who is the European representative; and Des Sullivan, Sydney Frontrunners, who is the IFR delegate to the Federation of Gay Games and will be traveling to Johannesburg to attend the next Federation Meeting in mid-October.

Clark then asked delegates to introduce themselves.

III. ROLL CALL and MEETING PROCEDURES

Gary Fracassi then did a roll call of IFR clubs. He explained that IFR has a dues structure decided on in Philadelphia in 1999 and that he would be reading the names of clubs who either paid their IFR dues for 2001 or if they were small enough to not require dues payment, that they turned in an information sheet on their club to keep IFR records current. IFR clubs and their voting delegate in attendance: Albany (Two Rivers) - Roslyn Webber, Ann Arbor - Michael Greyer, Atlanta - Mike Spencer, BayLands - Lon Justice, Boston - Alden Clark, Buffalo - Alden Clark (Proxy), Chicago - Eurika Otto, Gainesville - Gary Fracassi (Proxy), Grand Rapids - David Paschke, London - Steven Boyd, Long Beach - Brian Eggert, New York - John Kiley, Orlando - Gary Paskal, Palm Springs (registered, but delegate not present), Philadelphia - Bill Biskup, Pittsburgh - Dave Torrey, Portland Maine - Jim Estes, San Diego - Chuck Goosman, San

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Francisco - Jon Borset, Sydney - John Wall, Toronto - Alden Clark (Proxy), Washington D.C. - Ernie Worden.

Clark then went over some of the IFR procedures:

- 1) There are currently six regions representing all FR clubs and one representative for each of the regions. Regions can change, and new ones may be added as new clubs form or clubs become inactive.
- 2) Clubs can send multiple delegates to the meetings but each club only gets one vote. Clubs that are not members can attend the meetings as "observer clubs".
- 3) Clubs can also send a proxy to the meetings.
- 4) Clark asked that only one person speak at a time and that side discussions be kept to a minimum.

IV. **STEERING COMMITTEE WORK - Presentation By Alden Clark**

Clark outlined some of the activities the IFR Steering Committee worked on during the previous year in the context of the goals and purposes outlined in the IFR constitution:

- *Encourage Front Runners Activities:* maintained the IFR website and IFR mailing list. An interclub activities subcommittee was formed which developed a list of guidelines.
- *Oversee relevant sports:* defended the IFR application to the Federation of Gay Games board and had our delegate Des Sullivan participate on Federation committees. Sponsored the IFR Invitational in Berlin last year.
- *Affiliate widely:* had clubs participating in other clubs activities such as Pride events and special running events as well as participating in local running events and organizations.
- *Encourage membership:* used the IFR website and provide support information for clubs wanting to organize.
- *Encourage gender parity.*

Accomplishments:

- Obtained a Director seat on the Federation of Gay Games.
- Established a list of Meeting requirements and guidelines.
- Made Interclub activity recommendations:
 - 1) Exchange information on other club events.
 - 2) Participate in other clubs activities.
 - 3) Encourage clubs to exchange newsletters and make them accessible to club members.
 - 4) Use email list to let people know of events.
 - 5) Set up a regional calendar of upcoming events
 - 6) Plan events in advance.
 - 7) Use well attended events to publicize FR club events.
 - 8) Put links on local club websites.
 - 9) Send word personally to other clubs to advertise upcoming events.

Another thing done was to send out new club packets to several clubs. Clark mentioned that Frontrunners Boston has put together a binder of material that may be helpful to new clubs and includes sample club bylaws, application forms, IFR meeting minutes, sample club publicity flyers. Brad Miyasato mentioned that to make distribution of the new club packet easier, IFR has put the packet on CD-ROM. Delegates were encouraged to pick up a copy of the CD-ROM and also to submit their own club materials for inclusion in the packet.

Questions and Comments:

- *Would these materials be included on the website?* Yes, they will be on the website, but because some of the documents and images are quite large, it still will probably more convenient for

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distribution of the whole packet by CD-ROM particularly for those who have slower Internet connections.

Clark then reviewed the agenda for the two days of meetings. On Thursday, there would be several reports in the morning, a break for lunch, and be followed with new business items and discussion. There would be workshops after that. On Friday, there would be a continuation of new business items, workshops, and election of regional representatives and the delegates to the Federation of Gay Games.

V. **TREASURER'S REPORT - Presentation By Gary Fracassi**

IFR Treasurer, Gary Fracassi mentioned that IFR operates on a calendar year and he presented accounting for all of 2000 and then for 2001 up until October. In 2000, there were a total of 38 clubs that sent in dues and/or paperwork: 11 clubs under 25 members, 8 clubs with 26-50 members, 7 clubs with 51-150 members, 4 clubs 151-250 members, and 8 clubs over 250 members. Dues received in 2000 totaled \$1650. In addition, some clubs who were not required to pay dues sent in money, and some clubs sent in additional money for an additional \$125. Total income was \$1775. Expenses were \$240 for website, \$172.37 printing, \$100 Federation of Gay Games application, \$40 bank charges. Total expenses were \$552.37, leaving a balance of \$1222.63. In 2001, 7 clubs with 1-25 members, 3 with 26-50 members, 8 with 51-150 members, 6 with 151-250 members, and 4 clubs with over 250 members, total 28. Dues received totaled \$1325 dollars. Two clubs (BayLands and Pittsburgh) sent in dues twice. There was \$50 in additional contributions, for total revenue of \$1500. Expenses so far for 2001, \$240 for web costs, \$23.80 for printing and postage, \$100 dues to Federation, \$90 bank charges, for total expenditures of \$453.80. Excess this year is \$1046.20, for current balance of \$2268.83.

Questions and Comments:

- *When are dues notices sent out?* At the beginning of the year.
- *For those clubs who haven't paid, can they pay now?* Yes.
- *Sounds like we lost clubs?* Yes, there were 10 less clubs who paid. Wayne Morgan noted that for international clubs, the cost of sending bank drafts costs more than the dues themselves so a method of paying by credit card would help significantly. It was also noted that even though 40 or so clubs have joined IFR, there are a total of almost 100 clubs so there are still a large number of clubs that haven't joined.
- *Is there a list that says which clubs have joined?* We are working on putting this on the web. While we want all the clubs to join and support IFR, we didn't want to exclude clubs that for whatever reason choose not to join because it is our mission to be an umbrella organization and network for Front Runner clubs worldwide.

VI. **FEDERATION OF GAY GAMES REPORT FROM DES SULLIVAN - Presentation by Wayne Morgan**

Wayne Morgan presented a summary of Des Sullivan's report as Sullivan was attending the Federation of Gay Games meeting in Johannesburg South Africa beginning on 21 Oct 2001 and was unable to also be in San Diego.

Highlights:

- IFR joined the Federation of Gay Games in 2001.
- Organizations can have two delegates. IFR will need to select a second delegate.
- IFR has input to track and field and marathon events and some input to Triathlon.
- Sullivan is on two Federation committees -- the Sports Committee and Policies and Procedures Committee. He is also the Track and Field and Marathon coordinator.

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- There have been some changes in the Sydney 2002 Board but the Games will go on. Registration is well ahead of previous Games and people are encouraged to register before the 31 Oct early registration deadline.
- In Johannesburg, there will be a vote for the 2006 Games host. Bidding cities are Atlanta, Montreal, Chicago, Los Angeles.
- Sullivan has been working with Brent Nicholson-Earle to plan the International Rainbow Memorial Run. There are runs planned for San Francisco, Vancouver, New York, Amsterdam and in Sydney for the Gay Games.

Questions and Comments:

- *Can people register for the Gay Games at the IFR meeting?* No, people are encouraged to register online.

Sullivan's report is included as Attachment #1 to these minutes.

VII. IFR 2002 GENERAL MEETING – Presentation by Wayne Morgan

The 2002 IFR General Meeting will be held on the two days immediately prior to the start of the start of the Gay Games Sports Program in Sydney – 31 Oct and 1 Nov, 2002. The Meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at Caesar's Bar on Parramatta Road which is close to the gay area in Sydney. In addition to the meetings, there are social activities and runs planned. Although Halloween is not traditionally celebrated in Sydney, there will be a Halloween celebration and IFR members are asked to help bring items to create a Halloween atmosphere. Other events planned: a ferry trip through Sydney Harbor; an IFR party similar to that held in New York for Gay Games IV; a fun run and Rainbow Memorial Run.

For those interested in hosted housing for the Gay Games, Morgan said they need to register their request with the Gay Games. There are about 3000 slots available and it is expected that participants from Africa, Asia and Oceania areas will be given priority. There will be limited hosted housing available for IFR meeting participants.

Miscellaneous: the weather will likely be warm and humid, there are a variety of dining choices and food is inexpensive. There is good public transportation.

Registration details have not been worked out yet, but it is expected that it will begin about three months prior to the Meeting. Because it will be held just before the Games, delegates from a large number of clubs representing many countries are expected to attend.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Bob Leyh, Front Runners San Diego secretary asked that clubs with items for the silent auction to be held during the Saturday night dinner should give them to him. Leyh also went over the silent auction procedures. He also described the "official" photo opportunities available.

David Cohen, IFR 2001 co-chair thanked participants for attending. He mentioned that there were only a couple of delegates that were not able to make the meeting. The largest contingent (aside from San Diego) was the San Francisco club with seven delegates. Cohen also thanked delegates from London and Sydney who traveled the farthest to come to the meeting. He also mentioned that of the 57 delegates, 11 were women.

Cohen then discussed the workshop program being held in the afternoon. Workshops: Archiving History – presented by FRSD member Dennis Fiordaliso, Community Service – by FRSD member Dan Janeck, How to Buy Running Shoes – by Rick Vandertie of Moving Shoes, Yoga for Runners – by FRSD member Rick Vogt.

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IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Direction For The IFR Delegate To The Federation Of Gay Games**

Alden Clark opened up the New Business discussion by asking delegates if they had specific recommendations for the IFR delegate to the Federation.

Comments and Questions:

- IFR needs to take a more active role in track and field events. Some of the problems encountered in Amsterdam: events not well organized, events ran too late, volunteers were turned away.
- Wayne Morgan responded that track and field will be starting earlier in Sydney (at 10 am) and one of the organizers of the Olympic track and field events would be also organizing the Sydney track and field events. John Wall (Sydney) also suggested that those wishing to volunteer should register on the Gay Games 2002 website to make sure their services are utilized. Morgan also mentioned that the sanctioning body for track and field in Sydney will be involved in the Gay Games track and field event planning.
- It was suggested that the marathon event *not* be open to any participant. It was commented that in New York, the event was opened up to increase visibility and revenue from the event. Wayne Morgan agreed that in Sydney, the marathon event will be open to the public in order to generate revenue.
- *If anyone is allowed to participate, can they win?* Although a non-Gay Games participant may win the event, they will not be included in the medalling for the event – only registered Gay Games participants will receive medals for the event.
- Clark mentioned that in talking with some other clubs, there was a concern in past Gay Games about consistent age groups in track and field events. In Amsterdam, for example, there was confusion because different age groups were combined for certain events.
- There needs to be more education about how track and field events are run. Even if heats are cancelled, registrants need to sign in to be included in the finals.
- Mike Zuzu (Philadelphia) pointed out that beginning with Sydney 2002, the host city will be required to meet minimum standards for the sports events which is described in the Federation “Red Book”. Zuzu noted that the IFR delegate Des Sullivan has been working to ensure that these minimum standards are being met in Sydney.
- In response to a question about the organization of the Federation of Gay Games, Zuzu explained that the Federation of Gay Games Board is comprised of individual directors and organizational directors (such as IFR). There are about 50-60 directors. Although IFR has had one Federation delegate and provisions for an alternate, at last year’s Federation meeting it was decided to allow organizational directors to have two votes because they represent larger numbers of members. Organizational directors include various sports organizations (tennis, bowling, wrestling, volleyball, martial arts, etc) as well as Teams and regional groups (Team Philadelphia, Team San Francisco, Team Sydney, etc) and cultural groups such as Mardi Gras. Individual directors are primarily those members who helped organized and have experience with the first Gay Games. Zuzu also mentioned that directors are required to be on two Federation committees. Some of the Federation committees are: a Policies Committee, a Sports Committee, a Cultural Committee, and a Site Selection Committee. As an example, he described what the site selection committee does to ensure that bidding cities meet minimum standards and have adequate venues, adding that after a host city is selected, the Federation then oversees the Games and holds the host city to licensing agreements.
- *Has IFR presented a list of requirements to the Federation?* Zuzu responded there has been no official presentation by IFR but the minimum standards were developed using input from Frontrunners (including himself and Des Sullivan). Wayne Morgan added that track and field events are also required to be sanctioned events and are overseen by a sanctioning body. Clark suggested that anyone that has specific requirements, they should make them known to our Federation delegate Des Sullivan.

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B. Second Federation Delegate

Clark noted that because of the change in the Federation policy regarding the number of directors, IFR would hold elections the next day (Friday) to elect a second Federation delegate. Because the IFR constitution includes language about an alternate delegate, a change to the IFR constitution would also be required.

C. IFR Logo

Clark noted that there was a discussion about designating an official IFR logo. There have been various logos used on the website and at previous IFR meetings and events. Delegates at the meeting also agreed that IFR should have a logo. It was suggested that a committee be formed to solicit logo designs to be voted on. Delegates who volunteered to be on the committee: Joe Hom (Pittsburgh), Lon Justice (BayLands), Anne Ludwick (San Francisco), Jon Eichelberger (Sonoma County), and Gary Pascal (Orlando).

D. IFR Incorporation

Gary Fracassi mentioned that in preliminary discussion among the Steering Committee members, it became clear that incorporation was mainly a US issue and wasn't a primary concern for international clubs. Some of the issues:

Benefits of incorporation/reasons to incorporate:

- Protection from liability.
- Establishes a legal entity.
- Allows seeking non-profit status.
- Legitimizes IFR to make it easier to get sponsorship.

Questions raised in considering incorporation:

- What state would IFR incorporate in?
- What would be the cost for incorporation?
- Cost for non-profit status?
- Ongoing annual costs?

Discussion:

Lon Justice (BayLands) reported that BayLands just incorporated primarily for liability and legitimacy purposes – their Run for the Community has become a major club and community event and it was felt that incorporation would help attract bigger sponsors for the event. He also noted that because of liability concerns BayLands had difficulty in getting members to run for officer/key-member positions. Justice noted that for BayLands incorporation was a lot of work because they didn't have an organizational structure in place. He suggested that for IFR it may largely be a matter of filling out paperwork.

Alden Clark noted that Frontrunners Boston incorporated a number of years ago and it was also because the club puts on several large races. By incorporating, FRB also could establish a bank account for the club rather than having it under an officer's name.

David Torrey (from Pittsburgh, and an attorney) also agreed that incorporation is a good idea to shield the organization from liability.

Fracassi added that in his Treasurer's report, there were a number of bank fees paid and that the bank has said that if IFR were to get non-profit status, many of those fees would be waived.

Question: Is IFR using Gary Fracassi's social security number for the bank account? Fracassi answered no, he obtained a Tax ID number for IFR to open the bank account.

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When asked about the costs of incorporation, Fracassi noted that costs differ from state to state and that in Florida costs are less than \$100 for the initial filing and less than \$100 for the annual fees. Lon Justice added that filing for 501 (c)3, (c)7 not-for-profit, charitable status costs more and is more challenging.

There was some discussion on what, if any, weight incorporation would carry outside the United States. It was suggested that IFR looking into what other international bodies (such as the Federation of Gay Games) has done with regard to incorporation. Wayne Morgan and Mike Zuzu volunteered to investigate what the Federation has done and report back to IFR.

By a show of hands it was decided that IFR should continue to move forward and investigate incorporation for IFR.

E. Joining USATF

Clark noted that for the Boston Marathon, Front Runners had in the past formed teams to compete but this was not allowed this past year. However if IFR had joined an organization such as USATF, they would have been able to. Another benefit would be the ability to get insurance and sanctioning for IFR events. Gary Fracassi added that by joining USATF they could certify a course for an IFR running event.

It was also suggested that IFR consider joining international organizations such as the IAAF and other local organizations where the Gay Games will be held.

There was a question of whether IFR membership in any of these organizations would also confer benefits to IFR member clubs. By informal vote, it was decided that IFR should look into joining these organizations and finding out if, as an umbrella organization, whether member clubs could get benefits. It was further decided that the steering committee would be empowered to pursue membership in these organizations rather than waiting for the next meeting.

F. Club Hospitality Policies

Clark asked if individual clubs had any particular hospitality policies regarding hosted housing for fellow Front Runners, etc. It was added that IFR is not attempting to dictate how clubs handle housing but if there was any support IFR could provide clubs to monitor housing issues. Brad Miyasato mentioned that some of the questions raised regarding hospitality policies were: Do clubs offer housing to anyone that says they are a Front Runner? Do clubs attempt to verify Front Runner membership before accommodating housing requests? Has any club had any problems housing individuals?

Eurika Otto (Chicago) mentioned that Chicago offers housing for club special events and also tries to accommodate requests at other times for housing. She also added because many members have contacts in other clubs, a little probing usually reveals whether the person is a Front Runner or not.

Derek Satchell (Utah) said that Frontrunners Utah gives its members membership cards with the member's name, the club name and the year of membership that can be used to verify Front Runner membership.

Other suggestions were to contact the club directly to inquire if the person requesting housing was really a club member as well as forwarding email housing requests to clubs to verify club membership.

On the question of problems with housing, Clark noted that he knew of one incident that a person had a bad experience with housing an individual.

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To summarize: it was suggested that clubs be aware that housing requests may come from non-Front Runners and that it is up to the individual clubs to check into it if they see it as a concern. And if there is any support clubs would like from other clubs, or from IFR, they should contact that club or IFR.

G. Passport Magazine Sponsorship

Clark mentioned that IFR had been contacted by Passport Magazine regarding sponsorship of IFR events and that the steering committee would be following up to get more information and to look into other sponsorship possibilities.

H. Outreach

On the topic of Outreach, Clark noted that there were several aspects to the issue of Outreach and what IFR can do.

One aspect was how individual clubs can build their membership. He mentioned that some of the clubs had reported that they were not getting younger members to join their clubs and asked if other clubs had similar trends and if there was anything that IFR could do to help. In addition to specific suggestions brought up for individual clubs to outreach in their local areas such as: going to college campuses to recruit new members, advertising in local magazines, etc., Clark noted that suggestions had been presented in the Outreach Break-out Committee at the Philadelphia meeting (and included in those minutes), as well as on the website and in the New Club Startup Packet.

The other aspect was how IFR, as an umbrella organization, can help foster club growth at a higher level. Clark noted that although Frontrunners Boston and IFR has sent out Starter Kits to prospective clubs, there sometimes has not been adequate follow-up and that is one area for improvement – possibly by having regional representatives contact prospective clubs to offer any assistance. It was also suggested that IFR could promote new clubs by disseminating information to the other clubs either by sending email to the club contacts or by including information in club newsletters.

Other suggestions for promoting Front Runners were: to have reflective apparel and/or stickers that have the Front Runners name on it (this also has benefit of making runners visible at night); also to make sure links to the IFR website are listed on other running related sites.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Bob Leyh went over some of the upcoming events. For those wishing to participate in the San Diego AIDS Walk either as a walker or runner, they can register with Front Runners San Diego. He encouraged everyone to participate in the evening's Gay Games mixer at the Art Museum. He also mentioned that there were a few places available for the Saturday dinner and that anyone wishing to attend who hadn't already signed-up should do so as soon as possible. Leyh said that although the Tijuana trip had been cancelled, a winery tour had been arranged for those interested.

Leyh then described the workshops and introduced the workshop facilitators.

The IFR meeting was then concluded for the day so delegates could participate in the workshops.

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Friday, October 5, 2001

I. HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Alden Clark brought the second day of meetings to order at 10:10 a.m. Brad Miyasato passed out copies of the current Club Directory and asked club delegates to review their club information and note any changes. He also said that email addresses of the form club@fronrunners.org (such as berlin@fronrunners.org, baylands@fronrunners.org, etc.) have been provided as a benefit to those clubs that joined IFR. These addresses can be set up with a mailbox that clubs can access via the web, or can be used to forward email to one or more people. He noted that many clubs use individual's personal email addresses for club email and by using a constant address, it will prevent problems when those individuals change their address. Forms are available both at the meeting and on the web for setting up these addresses.

II. NEW BUSINESS (continued from previous day)

H. Outreach

In addition to the items discussed the previous day, Clark suggested that a membership committee be formed to work with the regional representatives to help with follow-up contacts with new clubs. Clark added that when sending out a new club startup packet, an acknowledgement form is included that can be returned to let us know that they received the packet. A survey is also included to give provide feedback to determine if they found the packet useful or if there was anything they felt was lacking.

Gary Fracassi mentioned that one suggestion made in the past was to have a big sister/big brother arrangement where members from one club would attend a new club's runs and activities, to answer any questions, and to provide support to clubs just starting out. This is one way existing clubs could foster new clubs.

Wayne Morgan said that there was discussion about starting a new Front Runner club in Sydney but asked if clubs that were geographically close together had problems defining "territories". Lon Justice noted that BayLands has many members that are also members of other clubs in the Bay Area such as San Francisco and Eastbay and many members participate in the runs and activities of different clubs. Richard Nelson (Los Angeles) noted that the L.A. club has runs in different locations on different nights primarily because the L.A. club covers such a large region. John Rochat (Sonoma County) added that the demographics are such that L.A. could easily support several clubs. Brad Miyasato noted though that when some of the members of the L.A. club started the Long Beach club, there was a degree of friction between the two initially.

In addition to fostering the formation of new Front Runner clubs, Lon Justice suggested that another aspect of Outreach is to get already existing Front Runner clubs to join IFR and that a committee working with the Steering Committee should be formed.

With the Sydney Games taking place next year, Wayne Morgan suggested that IFR outreach to those in other counties and encourage them to participate in the 2002 Meeting with the hope that they will go back and start clubs in home countries. Other suggestions included contacting runners from other countries and inviting them to the Meeting; having a "Starting a Front Runner club" workshop session during the Meeting; waiving Conference fees and membership fees; and having information and flyers at Welcome/Information Centers at the Gay Games. John Wall (Sydney) volunteered to investigate where there might be locations for promotional materials.

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It was also pointed out that when discussing outreach to other countries there are cultural and economic factors that should be considered.

In addition to the Steering Committee, those who volunteered to work on the Membership/Outreach Committee included Lon Justice (BayLands), Roslyn Webber (Two Rivers Albany), and Mike Zuzu (Philadelphia), John Wall (Sydney) and Lyn McSweeney (Sydney).

I. Role of the Federation Delegate

Bill Biskup suggested that IFR needs to make its desires and input known to the Federation Delegate and that it is also the responsibility of the Delegate to let IFR clubs know of any upcoming votes/decisions so that input can be provided to the Delegate. This was followed by a discussion about the need for a process to collect input from IFR members and relaying that information to the Delegate so that he/she can vote in accordance with IFR collective wishes. There was also the recognition that current electronic communication may not be reaching the right people and that there may not always be opportunity to collect input before a vote is required.

Clark noted that Des Sullivan *has* on occasion polled the IFR Steering Committee for input so our Delegate has not been operating independently. However it was agreed that more input from all the clubs is necessary. It was also suggest that as part of the process, IFR may want to identify several key issues that IFR has particular interest in and relay that information to the Delegate.

Motion made by Ernie Worden of DC seconded by Mike Zuzu of Philadelphia.

A committee be formed to develop a process and procedures to provide input to the Federation of Gay Games Delegates.

Called to a vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Those volunteering to be on the committee: Bill Biskup (Philadelphia), John Wall (Sydney), and Mike Zuzu (Philadelphia). It was recommended that Des Sullivan (Sydney) also be on the committee. Clark said that IFR would publicize the committee and ask for more volunteers.

Question: Now that IFR has two delegates to the Federation, can they split their vote? It was suggested that the Process Committee may try to address this, but by selecting our Delegates, IFR is empowering them to make decisions on our behalf based on input provided them and that may or may not result in differing votes.

Regarding the information from the Delegate, Clark noted that although Sullivan had provided information and asked for input from the Steering Committee, this was not always disseminated to the clubs appropriately. It was suggested that communications be part of the process developed and that it include options such as including information on the website. It was further suggested that when compiling input from the clubs and/or individuals, that a summary be made available to everyone.

This was followed by a discussion on the upcoming vote on the 2006 Gay Games host city. It was reported that the bidding cities are Los Angeles, Montreal, Atlanta, and Chicago. Mike Zuzu explained that as part of the bidding process, cities put together a bid book that was available on the web where the bidding cities described their city, the venues to be used for the Games, the sports they intend to include, etc. In Johannesburg the cities will make a final presentation before Federation directors are asked to select the 2006 host city. Wayne Morgan said that having seen all the bid books, there are no concerns with regard to the running events and/or facilities. After a discussion of the various cities good and bad points

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including weather, transportation, exchange rates, the consensus reached was that the group was fairly neutral about which city is selected to host the 2006 Games.

III. IFR 2003 MEETING BID PRESENTATIONS

Three clubs made bid presentations to host the 2003 IFR Annual General Meeting (AGM): Boston, Chicago and Orlando.

Alden Clark made the presentation for Frontrunners Boston. FRB is proposing the October 10-11 weekend for the meeting in 2003 with meetings on Friday and Saturday and social activities during the rest of the weekend. Clark then provided information on FRB: it was founded in 1979 and is the third oldest club; has 125 members; has sponsored Pride Runs and founded the Yuletide Stride which has been run for 13 years; worked with the AIDS Action Committee to this year produce the AIDS 5K which had 1100 participants raising \$50,000. Clark also described some of the many historical, scenic and cultural attractions of the City of Boston, also known as "the Hub". Meetings would be held in the Esplanade area -- close to the gay neighborhood, the Back Bay area and the Boston Common.

Eurika Otto began the presentation for Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago by noting that the first two Front Runner Forums were held in Chicago in 1987 and 1989. FRFW Chicago club information: has 250 members; has experience hosting large events -- during the Chicago Marathon weekend the club hosts many out of town Front Runners; have a holiday weekend inviting many of the Midwest Front Runner clubs; are well known for their waterstation for the Chicago Marathon; named best running club in Chicago in 1993; inducted into the city Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame and Chicago Mayor Daley declared June 24 Proud to Run Day. Otto then highlighted some of the Chicago attractions and emphasized the city's cultural and ethnic diversity. FRFW Chicago is recommending the AGM be held during the Chicago Marathon weekend.

Gary Paskal made the presentation for Orlando FrontRunners. Paskal noted that Orlando club will be celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2003 and is proposing to hold the meeting the weekend between Memorial Day (the end of May) and the Gay Days weekend with meetings held on Monday and Tuesday. Orlando has a number of well known tourist attractions and the Gay Days event at DisneyWorld has become large and well attended. Paskal added that it is always easy to find reasonable airfares to Orlando. Orlando has a new community center and meetings may be held there.

Comments and Questions:

- *How many women do each of the bidding clubs have?* Boston: about 15 women (about 11%). Chicago: about 25% women. Orlando: 2 women on membership roster.
- *Are there any specific running events scheduled for the respective weekends?* Boston: there are several races that weekend including the Tuft's 10K. Orlando: delegates would be able to participate in the Orlando club fun runs during the weekend.
- *Both Chicago and Orlando have hosted IFR Forums in the past, has Boston?* No, although Boston has bid to host an event, it hasn't ever hosted an IFR event.

There was a short break to allow clubs with several delegates to confer and decide which club they would vote to host the 2003 AGM.

Additional Questions:

- *Is each of the cities offering hosted housing?* All the clubs indicated that they would offer hosted housing.
- *What are the expected costs and would time of year make a difference to the international participants?* The clubs noted that costs for hotel stays in each of the cities can be quite high, but that is why hosted housing will be available for those interested. Paskal noted that

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because the meeting would be held close to Gay Days, they hoped it would attract more international delegates.

- *Are there any other large conferences scheduled for the respective weekends?* None of the clubs knew of any specific conferences.
- *For Chicago: would the club's involvement with the Chicago marathon interfere with planning for the AGM?* Otto noted that most of the club involvement was that day only so it should cause any problems. She also noted that she believed there was a 5K or 10K and a marathon relay for those not wishing to run a full marathon.

There being no other questions or comments, a roll call vote was held. After tallying the votes, it was announced that Boston had been selected to host the 2003 AGM.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Bob Leyh described the workshops that would be held that afternoon: 1) Gay Games Information presented by John Wall and Lyn McSweeney and Wayne Morgan of Sydney Frontrunners; 2) Race Walking presented by Susan Armenta who is the 50K Women's National Champion; 3) Sports Psychology by Mark Lindshield; 4) Winning Waterstations presented by FRSD member Tom Dredge.

Leyh also introduced some of the members of the IFR 2001 Committee: Carol Clark, Carol Pierce, Jane Venghaus, Terry Trevino, Tom Dredge, David Cohen, and Bob Leyh, who have been working for 19 months to put together the IFR event.

V. SYDNEY 2002 GAY GAMES INFORMATION

In addition to information shared during the workshop, Sydney Frontrunners John Wall, Lyn McSweeney and Wayne Morgan distributed tourist information, maps of Sydney and Gay Games information flyers. They also answered any questions that delegates had:

Comments and Questions:

- *For those who have never been to Sydney, how do they know if they are getting good accommodations?* The Sydney Frontrunners suggested that before payment is made, that people contact the Sydney group who will help determine if accommodations are in good locations and if prices are reasonable. Qantas Airways and American Airlines are Games sponsors and participants may wish to use frequent flyer miles to reduce cost.
- It was also suggested that it might be useful to have some general information placed on the IFR website.

VI. ELECTION OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Clark explained that regional representatives serve two year terms and that each year half of the representatives are elected. This year, delegates would be filling three positions representing the South and Central U.S.A., the Eastern U.S.A., and Europe. Delegates of those regions were asked to meet and select their representative.

The following persons were re-elected as Regional Representatives:

Europe: Stefan Huch of Berlin Frontrunners

Eastern USA: Alden Clark of Frontrunners Boston

South and Central USA: Gary Fracassi of Orlando Frontrunners

IV. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE FEDERATION OF GAY GAMES

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Clark asked for nominations for the two Federation Delegate positions. In response to a question about the responsibilities of the Federation Delegates, the following were mentioned:

- delegates will represent IFR at the Federation meetings
- delegates must attend at least one of annual meetings which are held in different parts of the world. The location of next year's meeting has not been decided. Delegates must also pay their own travel costs to attend meetings.
- because there are electronic meetings, delegates must have Internet access and be able to receive email
- delegates must participate in at least one Federation committee
- it might be advantageous to have gender parity and have one male and one female delegate.

Wayne Morgan (Sydney) nominated Des Sullivan of Sydney Frontrunners to continue as Federation Delegate. The nomination was seconded by Alden Clark.

Mike Zuzu (Philadelphia) nominated Bill Biskup of Philadelphia. Anne Ludwick (San Francisco) nominated Eurika Otto (Chicago). Those nominations were seconded by Gary Fracassi.

Clark asked nominees to give brief self-introductions.

- Bill Biskup: has attended three IFR meetings, has been president of Philadelphia, is on Team Philadelphia's steering committee, volunteered at the New York Games and participated in track and field in Amsterdam.
- Eurika Otto: is from South Africa, has been involved with Front Runners since 1997, is current president of the club and has been assistant director for FRFW Chicago's Proud To Run event for two years.
- Des Sullivan (as described by Wayne Morgan): has been to Games in Vancouver, New York and Amsterdam, has been a Frontrunner for some 12 years, is public affairs manager for Qantas Airways, is coordinating three sports for Sydney 2002, has been involved with Sydney's bid to host the Games, and has been president of Sydney Frontrunners and has been a supporter of Team Sydney.

The clubs then submitted their votes for the two Federation delegates by paper ballot. After tallying results, Clark announced that the two people elected as delegates to the Federation of Gay Games were Des Sullivan and Eurika Otto.

VI. FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brad Miyasato reminded club delegates that they should contact him regarding setting up frontrunners.org email addresses for their club. Also to ensure that communications do not get dropped or neglected, clubs may want to consider having more than one contact for their club. He also suggested going to the website for updated information and announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

These minutes were submitted by:

Brad Miyasato, Shoreline Frontrunners of Long Beach – Acting Secretary

Thanks to Ernie Worden, Washington DC for helping take notes.

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Report by Federation of Gay Games Delegate, Des Sullivan

It is with much pleasure that I submit the report of my activities as the International Front Runners Organizational Delegate to the Federation of Gay Games for the 12 months to October 2001.

Membership Application

Without question the highlight of the past 12 months was the approval of our application for membership of the Federation, carried unanimously at the Annual Meeting in Sydney in October 2000. Our application was made on behalf of 36 clubs, representing some 4,015 Front Runners - comprising 3,306 men and 709 women.

Federation membership means lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders who are members of Front Runner Clubs now have an official voice on the sporting and cultural global body that comprises some 46 organizations and individual directors.

Membership participation

Under the Federation bylaws, our membership runs for four years when we will have to resubmit an application. At this time, we will be also assessed on our contribution towards the objectives of the Federation.

Following a change approved by the Federation last year, International Front Runners is entitled to two voting delegates – and organizations are urged to encourage gender parity where possible. The two votes only count if both delegates are present at an annual meeting or take part in electronic voting throughout the year.

I am submitting myself for election as Delegate for another 12 months and am requesting that the Annual Meeting in San Diego appoint a second delegate.

Federation developments

As you would expect, the focus of Federation activity in the past 12 months has concentrated on Gay Games VI in Sydney in November next year. One of the key objectives of the Federation is to ensure the successful staging of the quadrennial Gay Games in the tradition launched by Dr Tom Waddell for the first Games in San Francisco in 1982.

I serve on two Federation committees – the Sports Committee and the Policies and Procedures Committee. The Sports Committee elected me as the Track and Field and Marathon Coordinator to form the link between the committee and Sydney 2002 Gay Games VI.

In another role in Sydney, I am the Sports Working Group coordinator for Track and Field at Gay Games VI. I have declared this role before the Federation and strive at all times to prevent any apparent, or real, conflict of interest. There are several precedents for this type of dual role in the organizing bodies for past Gay Games.

Adverse publicity

Front Runner clubs may be aware of some negative publicity about Gay Games VI that appeared in July this year in a number of high profile website publications and various gay and lesbian and consumer media in several countries. The concern arose after a three-page confidential Federation email became public information.

I was chosen as part of a 10-person delegation from the Federation to carry out a scheduled site visit with Sydney 2002 from 21 to 28 July this year. Coincidentally, the visit followed the initial adverse publicity. Please note, the visit was part of the traditional interaction between the Federation and each Games Host City. It had been scheduled for earlier in the year but was deferred when several new members were appointed to the Board of Sydney 2002 and also to the staff of Sydney 2002.

I am happy to report that the intensive week produced a very satisfactory outcome. To quote from a Federation media release of 28 July:

Rebutting recent negative press reports that stressed disagreements between the Federation and Sydney 2002, officials of both groups said the partnership between the two bodies had reached a new level of comfort and transparency.

“Sydney’s new team has inspired confidence and demonstrated they will deliver the Games,” said Federation spokesperson Kathleen Webster of Philadelphia. “It was surprisingly easy addressing each other’s concerns about issues such as the license agreement,” she added.

The two groups agreed to reschedule license fee payments to the Federation. Four years ago Sydney had optimistically agreed to a somewhat even spread of license payments. The new proposal more accurately reflects the timing of projected income as registration and sponsorship fees come in closer to the actual dates of Gay Games VI late next year.

The Federation team that visited Sydney is now acting as a Host Liaison Committee receiving and reviewing confidential documentation from Sydney 2002 on a regular basis. This enables the Federation to more accurately follow progress and assist where possible, taking on tasks complementing S2002 activities.

In the period since the July visit, the cooperation and partnership between the Federation and S2002 has increased and continues to grow. Both sides acknowledge the need for transparency and trust – and this is being clearly demonstrated.

Registrations

As of 27 September 2001, a total of 2748 fully paid and installment paid registrations had been received for participation in Gay Games VI. This is the largest number of people to register this far in advance of a past Games. Male registrations totaled 2018 and female registrations 730 – a balance that S2002 is trying hard to improve.

Track and Field is one of the most popular sports with 359 people expressing interest as of 27 September (some of these are not yet paid). Marathon, which includes the full 42.2k marathon, a half marathon and a 10k road race had received 372 expressions of interest and Triathlon had received 219.

I again urge all Front Runners to register NOW if you intend to be part of this exciting celebration of our global community. The special early registration fee closes this month on Wednesday 31 October. For

Australia and New Zealand participants, the fee will rise from A\$285 to A\$336 and for the rest of the world the fee will rise from US\$165 to US\$195.

As well as helping with planning, early registrations provide a vital source of cash flow for S2002 and this is where our community can demonstrate the spirit that has helped lesbians and gay men counter adversity over the years. We need to demonstrate to the world that our Gay Games are important and that they will continue to be successful in this fast-changing global environment.

Gay Games VII

One important agenda item for the Federation Annual Meeting that I will attend in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 21 – 28 October, is the selection of the Host City for Gay Games VII.

There are four cities vying for the honor – Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles and Montreal. In recent weeks, members of the Federation Site Selection Committee have visited each city and have prepared a detailed report for the Johannesburg meeting.

Representatives of each bidding city will be present throughout the meeting and will make further presentations to the full Board. Each city has plans to mount a comprehensive Track and Field program, a Marathon and a Triathlon, following the precedence of previous Gay Games.

The outcome of the Board vote will be the subject of a media release distributed widely on Thursday 25 October to gay and lesbian media and also to general consumer media. I will also advise the IFR Executive Committee as soon as practical after the announcement is made so member clubs can be advised.

Federation General Developments

The Federation has a number of ongoing committees and task forces that progress its objectives of safeguarding the spirit, integrity and quality of the quadrennial Gay Games. Some of these that have either direct or non-direct relevance to Front Runners, include:

- The development of a general policy to promote the inclusion of 50+ categories in those sports that do not already accommodate participants over 50 years of age. Additionally, a general policy to promote novice categories where appropriate in sports to encourage the participation of all, regardless of the level of proficiency.
- A procedure to assess requests for a new sport to be included either as a core sport or an additional sport within the Federation's Red Book of Sports (the sport policy manual).
- The development of a policy outlining the Federation's philosophical position on the use of ergogenic substances and to set forth drug testing policy parameters for use in contract negotiations between the Federation and the Gay Games host cities.

International Rainbow Memorial Run

As you will be aware from another agenda item discussion for the San Diego meeting, there are plans to stage an International Rainbow Memorial Run in 2002. The project is being led by the US-based organization, AREA, and Federation Director, Brent Nicholson Earle of New York and is a collaborative effort involving many groups within and outside the Federation.

I commend the idea to International Front Runners and hope the Annual Meeting endorses IFR support and participation in the event.

Conclusion

It has been an exciting year for me representing International Front Runners on the Federation. In a short space of time, we have made our voice known and I believe, modestly, we have made a significant contribution.

As we enter our second year with my attendance at the Federation Annual Meeting in Johannesburg this month, I encourage all Front Runner clubs to contact me if there are any issues at all concerning the Federation or its association with Gay Games. In particular, I urge Front Runner members to learn more about the Federation of Gay Games by visiting the website www.gaygames.com

Yours in running

Des Sullivan
Sydney, Australia