

International Front Runners  
Annual General Meeting Minutes

Chicago, IL, USA  
July 13 – July 14, 2006

## I. Day I – Thursday, July 13, 2006

- A. James Stevens of Chicago Front Runners/Front Walkers welcomed the delegates to the AGM and presented a little history of why we're meeting at the Broadway United Methodist Church, specifically the pastor Greg Dillon who later stopped in to meet the group.
- B. President Clark introduced the officers and steering committee members
- C. Treasurer Fracassi took roll and registered proxy holders.

Name	Club	Present	Proxy
Rachel Corbett	Aarhus		x
Warren Snaider	Baylands		x
Alden Clark	Boston	x	
Brad Bostock	Calgary	x	
John White	Chicago	x	
Rachel Corbett	Copenhagen		x
Brad Bostock	Edmonton		x
David McConkey	Halifax		x
Richard Newman	Honolulu	x	
Greg Larocque	Manchester		x
Rachel Corbett	Mexico city		x
Uruguay Catalogne	Montevideo	x	
Warren Snaider	Montreal		x
Gary Fracassi	Orlando	x	
David McConkey	Ottawa		x
Rachel Corbett	Running Moose	x	
Jon Borset	San Francisco	x	
Greg Larocque	Seattle		x
Warren Snaider	Shoreline		x
David McConkey	Toronto	x	
Ray Duggan	Vancouver	x	
Warren Snaider	Washington DC	x	
David McConkey	Wellington		x
		23	11 12

D. Change to agenda - Presentation of FGG delegates moved to Friday to accommodate missing representative

E. President Clark announced that minutes from last year's meeting were recently posted to the website. He read the highlights to the group.

**F. Motion made and seconded to accept the minutes from last year. Approved.**

G. President Clark summarized the organization structure to the group and a report on the activities of the steering committee this past year.

1. Organization efforts with the Chicago club to prepare for this year's meeting
2. Organization with David McConkey and the Montreal group for the event being held in conjunction with OutGames
3. Held the special meeting electronically to vote on the changes to the IFR constitution as agreed at the AGM in San Francisco. The results were announced and posted on the website.
4. Announced the potential new clubs that received start-up packets.
5. Announced the expansion to the website to translate into other languages. Spanish is just about complete and other languages are French and Portuguese. Volunteers were solicited to assist.

H. Treasurer Fracassi presented the treasurer's reports for 2005 and the year-to-date. *See attachment 1.*

1. Discussion & questions concerning which clubs have renewed; which clubs have dues; what the guidelines were for delegate reimbursement.
2. **Motion made and seconded to assess annual fees based on the highest member count during the prior calendar year.** Motion passed.
3. **Motion made and seconded to accept the treasurer's reports.** Motion passed.

I. Greg Larocque presented the delegate report from the attendance at the GLISA meeting.

1. Outreach efforts made to European clubs to participate in GLISA and be active in their continental organization. Responses received from London and Rome. Presently there are 44 club members.

2. Sports director was replaced by Marielle Lauzon, who is a runner from Montreal.

3. Noted that cross country is 100% subscribed. Marathon is oversubscribed. All track and field events have been sanctioned. Wrinkle in relay events – consideration of cumulative age of all participants. Triathlon is oversubscribed. Running, track & field have 1,500 participants out of 12,000 (3 weeks ago).

4. Report given on the informal outreach event to be held in Montreal. Chris Harrington of Les Galopins was instrumental in securing the venue – Le Club Sandwich – and their second floor meeting room. The event will be held on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 8PM which leads into the opening parade. Ottawa and Running Moose have also been helpful. There is a link on the website to register a person's intent to attend. At present there are registrations from over 200 people. There will be a slide presentation of the Front Runner Family photos.

5. Rachel explained Montreal and GLISA's policy on anti-doping. There will be testing consistent with World Anti Doping Agency. Every registrant is subject to testing and may be asked to provide a urine specimen. "We play for real" is the slogan and philosophy of Out Games.

6. Greg expressed his idea that sponsorship be obtained to supplement funding for GLISA delegates. He offered using GLISA as an agent and catalyst to find the sponsor. This will be easier once the existing sponsorship commitments will expire with the Out Games. A motion was made and seconded to authorize the president, treasurer and GLISA delegate to enter into negotiation to find a sponsor.

a) Consideration with respect to the product sponsor that it be of a nature that they were ethical and that their product is available world-wide (such as shoes, clothing, etc.)

b) This could also generate a constant cash-flow

c) The sponsor could also assist with outreach efforts to supplement and event we might want hold in a remote location.

d) This item was deferred to the new business section of the meeting.

7. **Motion made and seconded to accept the report of the delegate.**  
Motion passed.

J. 2007 AGM meeting location

1. Presentation made by Brad Bostock of Calgary Front Runners. *See attachment 2.*
2. Presentation made by Richard Newman of Honolulu Front Runners. *See attachment 3.*
3. Calgary won by a vote of 21 to 2.
4. Richard questions the commitment to a track & field/running event in 2008. Confirming that this is the policy as part of the rotation in the IFR event cycle, it is important to be aware of the USATF schedule and the ability to piggy-back with existing events.

K. President Clark asked Rachel Corbet to give additional details about GLISA and the OutGames and how the events are structured.

1. 4 pillars
  - a) Develop GLBT sport movement
  - b) Partnerships with mainstream sports & human rights
  - c) Delivery of Outgames
  - d) Professionalism and legacy
2. GLISA goal to have “subsidiary” continental organizations. Presently two have been incorporated, GLSIA North America and GLISA Asia-Pacific. There are also GLISA Europe and GLISA Latin and South America.
3. There are 104 member organizations.
4. Membership dues will be considered at the delegate conference to be held in two weeks in Montreal.

L. Old business

1. Richard Newman presented the Value Added Committee Report. Their goal was to find ways to enhance value of IFR membership to individual clubs. Their vision came up with one concept to centralize membership functions via a central database similar in concept to the American/Canadian Automobile Association.

a) Benefits include:

- (1) Ability to track statistics on clubs and members

(2) Present numbers to potential sponsors as a nationwide organization

(3) Facilitate interclub and member communications

(a) Mass e-mailings

(b) IFR newsletter

(c) Share personal information at the users' discretion

(4) Building a "machine" that accommodate growth to the future

(5) Time savings for the club officers

(6) Eliminate duplicative efforts on every club

(7) Banking advantages (ability of small clubs to accept credit cards)

(8) Potential profit center for IFR if they so choose

b) Potential negatives and concerns include

(1) Who controls this in the long term?

(2) What involvement do clubs have in the process?

(3) What kind of advertising if any?

(4) Privacy laws.

(5) Some clubs already have systems already in place

(6) Cost to IFR? Cost to clubs?

(7) On-going monitoring, i.e. decency in images; sharing of email addresses or blind addresses?

c) A survey has been prepared to gauge the interest on various options to the system. Richard will send this electronically to all clubs to be completed and returned. *See attachment 4.*

d) We need to include Brad in this discussion and hear his points.

2. Incorporation – in consideration of moving the above item forward, it would also be necessary to incorporate. Richard has contacted an attorney

and has some information with regards to this option. The main concern is the IRS and what 501 category we might qualify for.

3. Outreach – issues raised at one of last year’s breakout sessions.

- a) New club info kits
- b) Event at Montreal

M. New business

1. Sponsorship –

a) Survey delegates as to current discounts being offered to club members. Most clubs have obtained 10% discount from locally owned stores, but no chain stores.

b) Reopen the discussion of the earlier motion: **A motion was made and seconded to authorize the president, treasurer and GLISA delegate to enter into negotiation to find a sponsor.**

(1) Consider the difficulties of this discussion without specific, provable, tangible list of members

(2) Same considerations as above

(a) Ethical company

(b) Conflict with existing sponsors/discounters

(c) Limiting ourselves by exclusivity arrangements

(3) Consider eliciting the help of GLISA with their experience with sponsorship issues.

(4) Policy has to be set at exec level to deal with these issues

(5) Motion passed to move forward as an action item

## 2. Rainbow Memorial Run

a) President Clark gave a brief history of the history of the run and how it became part of the gay games. The founder, Brent Nicholson Earle, presented an idea to President Clark and IFR to involve the FR club in the respective city and have that club take “ownership” of the run in their city.

b) There was considerable discussion of what has happened with regards to the run here in Chicago. The question was raised as to who the Rainbow Run wants to align themselves with – whether it’s the federation, the host organization or IFR. Going forward this may resolve some of the issues.

c) **Motion was made and seconded to direct the executive to write to Brent Nicholson and seek clarification regarding their mission and what specifically they are asking of us.** Motion passed.

## II. DAY 2 – Friday, July 14, 2006

A. Meeting reconvened. The delegates reintroduced themselves. New attendees are: Kelsey Louie representing New York Front Runners, David Short representing Honolulu Front Runners.

B. President Clark explained the agenda for the rest of the day.

C. Kelsey Louie of New York Front Runners presented their bid for the IFR Games to be held in New York in 2008.

1. Meeting facilities will be available. Several options are available and are centrally located.
2. Housing options are being finalized including hosted housing.
3. Options are being discussed for sporting events
  - a) Fun run or competitive run
  - b) Track events
  - c) Parties
  - d) New York cultural and nightlife
4. Proud to point out they have a substantial number of women and young members
5. Team of FRNY have committed to put on the event.
6. Questions and answers:
  - a) Date? Option 1 is in connection with the pride run. Option 2 is later in the summer. Other dates discussed were Memorial Day weekend.
  - b) Current events? Cross country in September; track meet in March.

- c) President Clark gave a brief history of the various IFI and related “games” type events hosted by IFR and/or FR clubs.
- d) Some discussion about whether to keep the competitive events for front runners only or to open them to a large number. We felt that was up to the club with the exception of the Swedish relay.

7. With no additional questions, **a motion was made and seconded to accept the proposal by New York.** Motion passed.

D. President Clark reminded the group about the Rainbow Run to be held tomorrow morning at 7:00AM. This is a symbolic run, similar to the passing of the torch. Time permitting, the flag will also be displayed at the fun run at 9:00AM with Chicago Front Runner/Front Walkers. This flag will then be carried into the stadium at the opening ceremonies.

E. Rachel Corbett presented an invitation from the Copenhagen club as a reminder that in conjunction with the Outgames they offer to host the AGM that year. A formal presentation will be made at the appropriate time. Their proposal for Outgames and the AGM intention is attached. *See attachment5.*

F. President Clark talked about other new business. Some issues to be considered

1. We have the option to realign the regions
2. Dues structure
  - a) Including whether the current structure is adequate
  - b) Consider a cost to small clubs if they chose to participate (vote)
  - c) Treasurer Fracassi expressed the adequacy of the current structure of dues given our current budget but we may need to address this soon in light of where we want to be in 10 years and what costs may be incurred with the value-added ideas.
3. Consider the proposal by Wayne Morgan of Region VI to charge a nominal fee to all clubs.
  - a) Value is placed on their membership if they put up some money.
  - b) Small clubs carry the same voting power as a large clubs yet the large clubs represent the most runners and fund the largest share of IFR.
  - c) Fees may be an impediment to any small club. Our constitution specifies that our purpose is to encourage the formation of small clubs and this fee could be contrary to our purpose.
  - d) Our history has been one club, one vote.
  - e) No motion was made to implement this proposal.
4. Revisit the current information we pass to events such as FGG and GLISA. Are the presenters implementing our suggestions and are they adequate.
  - a) Richard Newman presented the FGG point of view as to management of events.
  - b) Rachel Corbett presented the GLISA point of view and their challenges to put on the Outgames event.

c) Richard Newman suggests trying to poll runners as to their experiences, perceptions, ratings, etc. He points out that it is a unique point in time with two events being held so closely together and this could provide some valuable statistical information.

- (1) Considerations as to what questions do we want to ask
- (2) Develop the questionnaire and send to our clubs to have their members to complete
- (3) Alternately have FGG and GLISA mail to participants.
- (4) Post to our website.
- (5) Reopen the forum for comments

d) President Clark asks for a subcommittee to gather survey information from the participants and also work with our webmaster to accomplish this. Volunteers are:

- (1) Richard Newman
- (2) John White
- (3) Brad Miyasato
- (4) Action plan
  - (i) Plan is for a questionnaire to be developed and approved by the steering committee by 9/15/06
  - (ii) Distributed to participants shortly after
  - (iii) Summarized and reported back to steering
  - (iv) Set up the website forum for free-form comments

5. Greg Larocque raised the issue of a long-term plan, *i.e.* goals and objectives and suggested a committee to look to at all of the suggestions on the table and create a multi-year strategic plan. He also suggests that we consider issues such as those faced by Uruguay to get here and his efforts to engender corporate sponsorship. Also, he suggests that we address the global issue. The idea is that this could be completed in a short term. Suggestion to include Wayne Morgan, Cologne, Uruguay Catalogne, Soren Marlberg, Manchester, Canadian, Warren Snaider and an additional US member.

- a) Action plan includes a first draft in two months 9/1/06
- b) Final plan in three months 10/1/06
- c) Greg Larocque will chair.

6. Future of meetings – consider electronic meetings. Should these be in connection with a physical meeting or purely an electronic meeting?

- a) Explore the options at future meetings for teleconferencing.
- b) Adjust meeting agenda to consolidate business issues in to time blocks to lessen the phone time.
- c) The long-range planning group will establish some guidelines to pass to Calgary for pilot testing.

#### G. Report of the FGG delegate

1. David Short presented his report. *See attachment 6.*

2. There are changes proposed to the FGG governing documents. David gives a brief history of the structure of the board of the federation. There are some issues and questions as to the new structure and how IFR will be represented. Any action items and further discussion will be postponed until next meeting.

H. Election of Delegates

1. Federation delegate –
  - a) Nomination of David Short
  - b) A motion was made and seconded that there being no other nominations, David Short was reelected by acclimation.
2. GLISA delegate –
  - a) Nomination of Greg Larocque
  - b) A motion was made and seconded that there being no other nominations, Greg Larocque was reelected by acclimation.

I. Election of Regional Representatives

1. Western US – Jon Nicholson
2. Southern Hemisphere – Wayne Morgan
3. Canadian – Brad Bostock

J. Budget – Treasurer Fracassi presented the budget of revenues and expenses for 2007. Several additional items were added. The final budget approved revenues of \$1,600 and expenses of \$3,265 for a net loss of \$1,665.

No other business, the meeting was adjourned.