

International Front Runners  
Annual General Meeting Minutes  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
April 5 - 6, 2007

## **I. Day I – Thursday, April 5, 2007**

- A. Gael MacLeod with Reid Dagleish and Barb Costar, Calgary Front Runners, welcomed delegates to Calgary.
- B. President Alden Clark welcomed delegates to the AGM.
- C. Roll call and registered proxy holders.

Alden Clark, Boston (Present)  
Gael MacLeod, Calgary (Present)  
Greg Larocque, Mexico City (Proxy)  
Gary Fracassi, Orlando (Present - Teleconference)  
David McConkey, Ottawa (Proxy)  
Tony Brathwaite, Running Moose (Present)  
Jon Borset, San Francisco (Present)  
Len Tritch, Seattle (Registered but Absent - Teleconference)  
David McConkey Toronto (Proxy)

D. President Clark reviewed officers and steering committee members. Steering committee consists of six voting regional representatives, two non-voting GLISA delegates, 2 non-voting FGG delegates, and the non-voting webmaster.

Alden Clark, President, Eastern US Rep  
Gary Fracassi, Treasurer, Southern and Central US Rep  
Søren Malmberg, European Rep  
Wayne Morgan, Southern Hemisphere Rep  
Brad Bostock, Canada Rep  
Jon Nicholson, Western US Rep  
Greg Larocque, GLISA Delegate  
Len Tritch, GLISA Delegate  
Richard Newman, FGG Delegate  
David Short, FGG Delegate  
Brad Miyasato, Webmaster

E. President Clark announced that minutes from last year's meeting are posted to the website and circulated copies.

**G. Motion by David M, seconded by Tony B, to accept the minutes from last year. All in favour. Carried**

H. Update since last AGM: Two subcommittees were struck as a result of recommendations at the previous Annual General Meeting:

- 1) Multi Year Action Plan: This came out of meeting in Chicago identifying need for strategic directions with growth indicators, and has been drafted and revised further with global participation. To be discussed in greater detail later today
- 2) Survey of participants of Gay Games and OutGames 2006: Feedback has been received from some participants and survey has been created on website but not up and running given change of server.

I. Change to agenda

- 1) Treasurer Report briefly deferred until teleconference after break
- 2) FGG delegates not in attendance, and no FGG Delegate Report provided.

J. GLISA Delegate Report: Greg Larocque commented on GLISA internationally and continentally.

- 1) International: Montreal OutGames carried out very successful events with an outstanding job of preparing volunteers for issues such as the humidity, and demonstrating a high level of technical expertise. GLISA organizationally is redirecting attention to next world OutGames in Copenhagen 2009. With expansion in Europe this is potential for increasing the number of running clubs in Europe.
- 2) Continental: First North America OutGames in Calgary with credit to Calgary Frontrunners as they have gone above and beyond, adding a 5K, 10K and Half Marathon to sport events held during the 25th Anniversary of Western Cup. GLISA North America now has about 50 member clubs, recently included Lonestar Frontrunners (Houston, Spanish speaking). GLISA NA continues to remind clubs that IFR exists. Youth OutReach initiative spearheaded and supported by Frontrunner community.

**K. Motion by Tony B, seconded by Greg L, to accept the GLISA Delegate Report. All in favour. Carried**

L. Report on 2008 AGM in New York: Preceding specific focus on the 2008 AGM, there was general discussion on how future Annual General Meetings could be managed to promote better attendance and participation while addressing organizational requirements. Attendees see a benefit in changing the AGM structure and content so that business is conducted electronically and in advance of an on-site gathering with workshops and speakers. Distribution and review of documents, pre-meeting tasks, nominations, motions, votes, etc could all be done prior to an onsite gathering. Discussion on new style of AGM carried over to New Business.

New York City Front Runners are hosting IFR Games and AGM for 2008 Memorial Day Weekend (end of May). NYCFR seeking feedback on what is best in terms of days to host an outdoor track meet adjacent or with break before road race (5K or 5 miles?) with possible cross country trial event.

M. Action Plan (Part I): Greg Larocque gave a preamble to this initiative that came out of the Chicago AGM in order to address insignificant club growth and the presence of a very modest budget. A group of individuals volunteered for a time limited exercise to develop a visioning document to address membership growth and services. The areas and points identified were presented based on priority, and reviewed by the Steering Committee prior to today's presentation.

1) Membership Services: What is value? What do we provide? It has been suggested that IFR consider a centralized electronic collection of dues and handling club accounting. IFR currently provides starter kits as a follow up to requests from website. Brad creates the CD's and gives Alden a bunch then he mails them out by CD or paper copy. Need to identify cities and have 25 CD sets ready for distribution

N. Treasurer Gary Fracassi presented the Treasurer's Reports for 2006. *See attachment 1.*

- 1) All categories are within the amounts budgeted for them.
- 2) Delegates are reminded to submit expenses.

**O. Motion by Alden C, seconded by Greg L, to accept the Treasurer's Report. All in**

## **favour. Carried**

P. Action Plan (Part II): Preceded with further discussion and revisions to Action Plan.

- 1) Membership:
- a) include reference to Start Up Kit (paragraph 3)
  - b) concern regarding up date of material, current, new samples, on the website
  - c) ensure a system on website requiring clicks for requests so we know who requesting and who to follow up with
  - d) emphasis on seminars, sessions, speakers rather than business in AGM (paragraph 1)
  - e) Runner's Spotlight focusing on specific person (paragraph 3)
  - f) links with existing sports/run calendars, not NA centric (paragraph 4)
  - g) target of increasing new clubs, identify target audiences, newspaper ads inviting club start up (paragraph 6)
    - i) Latin/South America (& Mexico) : Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, Sao Paulo, Florianopolis, Acapulco, Recife, San Jose (under new business will be establishing a new region and rep to address this area)
    - ii) North America: Las Vegas, Reno, Salt Lake City,
    - iii) Moncton, St John's, Winnipeg, Regina, Victoria, Hartford, Charlotte/Raleigh, Cheyenne, Albany/Two Rivers, Sarasota
    - iii) Africa: Johannesburg, Cape Town, Nairobi
    - iv) Europe: Belfast, Cologne, Prague, Rome, Stockholm, Budapest, Madrid
    - v) Asia - Oceania : Hong Kong, Tokyo, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Perth, Hobart, Bangkok, Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai
  - h) discussion of including renewed clubs as well as new clubs
  - i) discussion of virtual clubs such as Running Moose Squad for areas where clubs don't currently exist
  - j) continue to grow membership along with maintaining existing membership high priority

Significant discussion in regards to proposed centralizing of core services such as membership card and dues with two prong approach of ensuring technology and to bring clubs into the whole process. Still need action to investigate and cost of building it. Needs to reflect option service and respectful of autonomy when considering world wide data base. Need to be respectful of club member confidentiality. Concerns raised as member list held in US would be subject to US anti terrorism access; need for security from hacking; need to enable sponsor info to be distributed to membership without direct access to data base information. Requires more thought. As such, recommend explore provision of centralized core of services and admin within the IFR.

- 2) Finance:
- a) what would a sponsor get for money i.e 2 ads, certain number of times per year?
  - b) collecting some data; association of independent clubs and don't own that data
  - c) not to be labour intensive i.e. numbers, demographics, income; use of GLBT data,

- d) no reference to 501C3 status not mentioned in paragraph 4 as unresolved and US centric although possible international support
  - e) generating revenue through membership and sponsorship; also AGM sessions/workshops, and government/foundation stream
- 3) Communications:
- a) recommend greater diversity and representativeness to be part of refining promotional materials in addition to language
  - b) governance and static information to be submitted to translation
  - c) expand to paragraph 3 to include posting on website 'who people are' and 'who does what'
- 4) Governance & Planning:
- a) expand paragraph 1 to include electronic business and electronic voting in other areas
  - b) no specific Membership position on steering committee, currently role of Regional Reps and others
  - c) Communications Officer and Regional Rep positions to go forward to tomorrows New Business
  - d) need to determine if Webmaster reports to Communications Officer as voting member of Steering Committee
  - e) Secretary to receive proxy information, oversee electronic voting including count

Q. President Alden Clark adjourned the meeting for the day. Reconvene at 9am Friday April 3, 2007

## **II. DAY 2 – Friday, April 6, 2007**

A. Meeting reconvened. Delegates were joined by Craig Lewington, Calgary Frontrunners.

B. Action Plan (Part III): Reviewed responsibilities of members of Steering Committee, as outlined in Action Plan and with reference to Constitution and Bylaws.

### 1) Governance and Planning

Treasurer: - to send notice that annual subscription is payable

Secretary: - receives proxy information

- oversees electronic voting

- handles applications for new IFR members

Regional Reps: - required to attend AGM

- to have contact with clubs in their region minimally on a quarterly basis

- exercise responsibilities of membership development within their own regional jurisdiction

Communications Officer/Newsletter Officer: - oversee management of the website

2) Sports Technical: After some discussion related to how these are institutional objectives more than sport technical it was determined the section would be removed from Action Plan and used as may be required.

3) Some discussion on need for brand and name recognition.

4) President responsible for Governance & Planning; Treasurer resp for Finance; Regional Reps resp for Membership; Communications Officer/Newsletter Officer responsible for Communication

5) Amended Action Plan to be prepared by Greg L for inclusion with minutes within two

weeks of the meeting

**C. Motion by Greg L, seconded by Jon B, to adopt the Action Plan as Amended. All in favour. Carried** *See attachment 2.*

D. Rainbow Run: As at previous AGM, Alden Clark provided some background information about the Rainbow Run founded by Brent Nicholson Earle. The executive had been directed to write Brent Nicholson and seek clarification regarding their mission and what specifically they are asking us. Alden asked Wayne Morgan for a proposal as it seemed there is an interest in Rainbow Run being co-sponsored by IFR and FGG. No formal proposal has come forward. After lengthy discussion and historical perspective it was noted that we are operating without complete information and a report is not available for consideration by those in attendance. We are pleased to provide consultation but overall it would not be appropriate to take over any official duties as an organization.

E. New Business:

New AGM Structure:

- a) hold electronic meeting prior to on site gathering, if one occurs that year
- b) covering main business elements i.e. treasurer reports, legal requirements, and making available for review on-line
- c) info available at on-site event for one hour with opportunity for questions
- d) hold with physical setting event if there is a game
- e) use physical setting for one hour business review, additional votes if required, speakers, workshops of interest to members
- f) work together on appropriate time and length of meeting

While initial discussion was a two part process with electronic followed by face to face meeting, discussion shifted more towards use of electronic meetings using technology for most of the business being conducted by the IFR. Electronic nominations and voting with capacity for those running for a position to answer any questions, post profile, allowing for interaction, discussion of broad issues, post balance sheets etc.

**F. Moved by Gael M, seconded by Tony B, that all legal business to be conducted electronically on IFR website with an open forum for questions and answers; and may be followed by an on-site meeting the purpose of which will be club networking, information sharing, running related workshops and seminars as deemed appropriate. All in favour. Carried.**

**G. Moved by Gael M, seconded by Greg L, to add a Communications Officer as a voting member of the IFR Steering Committee with duties as described in Action Plan as adopted, and that the position be from the membership at large. All in favour. Carried.**

**H. Moved by Greg L, seconded by Tony B, to create a new region consisting of Mexico, Central America and South America. All in favour. Carried**

**I. Moved by Greg L, seconded by Tony B, that Steering Committee appoint Brad Miyasato, with his agreement, to carry out the duties of the Communications Officer for a period up to the next AGM. All in favour. Carried**

J. 2009 AGM: Offer for Copenhagen 2009 still stands

**K. Moved by Alden C, seconded by Tony B, to Accept Copenhagen offer to host IFR on site portion of AGM in 2009. All in favour. Carried**

L. New York AGM 2008: Support AGM Friday May 23rd, followed by a track meet and a road race on the weekend

M. FGG Delegate: Richard Newman's term as FGG delegate with IFR is up for nomination.

**N. Moved by Gael M, seconded by Alden C, based on overwhelming positive feedback, nominate Wayne Morgan as one of the FGG delegates. All in favour. Carried.**

O. GLISA Delegate: Len Tritch's term as GLISA delegate with IFR is up for nomination. Group reminded of efforts to strive for male and female representatives when filling the delegate positions. Discussion to call for nominees through IFR and to see if any other interest. Gael identified as a strong candidate and asset with connections in sponsorship and marketing that could work well with GLISA NA initiatives.

P. Moved by Greg L, seconded by Alden C, to appoint Gael MacLeod to be GLISA delegate on an interim basis of six months. All in favour. Carried.

Q. Regional Rep elections were deferred at this time.

R: No other business. Alden declared meeting closed/terminated.

Minutes by Dave McConkey on behalf of IFR