

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 19, 2017

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, June 19, 2017, at 9:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Ken Pape (President), Pat Moroney (VP Communications), Rosalie MacGowan (VP Finance), Sharon Berger (VP Operations), Lex Maccubbin (ED Men), Angela Corpus (ED Women), Sean Horan (ED Sevens), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees)

Non-Voting Members: J.C. Whipple (Administrator), Gary Heavner (DC Chair)

Absent: None

Membership: Sarah Francis (North Buffalo), Christina Killourey (North Buffalo), Rick Ayres (Tri-County Men)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 p.m. A quorum was in place.

NORTH BUFFALO WOMEN

Ken Pape said the North Buffalo Women has requested its release from the Empire GU. Christina Killourey (North Buffalo) represented the club. She stated the club has voted on this course of action due to only receiving three games and no playoff game (which was promised). The club competes with other clubs in the Buffalo area which compete in Midwest, which effects recruiting.

Christina also said the club is looking for competition at the D2 level. D2 Midwest has Pittsburgh, Akron, Cleveland. Ken stated that Empire has a D2 division (Morris, Danbury,

Lex Maccubbin proposed the concept of Buffalo and South Buffalo returning to Empire GU and creating a strong D2 hub in Upstate.

Christina said their club doesn't want to base it decision on what other clubs may or may not do. She also said the club is not happy with the state of the Women's Upstate conference. A discussion took place on the viability of the Women's Upstate division and North Buffalo's place in it.

Rosalie MacGowan asked if the club has taken advantage of any programming offered by EGU - 7s, Academy, etc. Sarah Francis (North Buffalo)

Ken Pape said that the move will most likely be denied at the CR level since there is a viable level of competition within the EGU. Angela Corpus stated at the Chair of the NCR3

Ken Pape made a motion that North Buffalo Women be released as a member Empire GU, contingent upon approval from the NCR3. Seconded by Lex Maccubbin. Motion passes, (6) Yes, (1) No, (1) Abstention. Ken will be emailing the club and Jeremiah at USA Rugby with a formal release.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken Pape said there have been a few questions on the agenda for the AGM.

1. EGUs continued membership with USA Rugby: this was on the top of the list from a couple clubs, including NYAC and Old Blue). This will be a discussion, not necessarily a vote. Questions came up on a more formal
2. Academy Vote: Sean Horan said it is noted there are three or four people strongly against the Academy. He is strongly against a vote - opening this to a vote at the AGM sets a precedent for additional Board decisions throughout the year. Ken said that Stephen Lewis and Alex Magelby have been invited to make a presentation on the Academy.

Rosalie MacGowan stated that she does not believe there should be a vote by members on the Budget, members should be voting on the people / positions who make those decisions. Lex Maccubbin said the growth of the Academy, especially in Upstate, has been very beneficial to players and clubs in the area. It should be given a few more years to continue to grow. Pat Moroney said a discussion is warranted on the Northeast Academy as this is the greatest source of friction for the EGU. A discussion took place on the

Rosalie MacGowan made a motion to amend the AGM agenda changing "Vote on Funding for Northeast Academy" to "Northeast Academy Presentation / Discussion." and also adding "HP Presentation / Discussion" and "Funding Allocations." Seconded by Sean Horan. Motion passes, (7) Yes, (1) No

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Pat Moroney reported there have been no additional nominations for Board seats. He asked J.C. Whipple to repeat the AGM notices (including call to members for agenda items) the next three days.

MEN'S REPORT

Lex Maccubbin said he sent the proposed structure of the leagues to NCR3. NERFU released Saratoga to EGU. There is a review of Upstate D2 teams as there are only four clubs

WOMEN'S REPORT

Angela Corpus said she sent out a survey to gauge interest on the Women's hybrid conference. The clubs support a hybrid in the interest of financial commitment / travel. Ken Pape said he feels it would be a good idea to reach out to Midwest to help the Upstate D3 clubs gain matches.

NCR3 REPORT

Angela Corpus there was a proposal put in front of the committee to prevent teams from same conference playing each other in first round.

SEVENS REPORT

Sean Horan said this past weekend kicked off the Summer 7s Series. Monmouth 7s was a great event. The \$1000 bond implemented has worked very well - Monmouth receive their full bond back already. Binghamton 7s was a great event hosted by a new club.

There was a red card from the Monmouth 7s that was not reported to Gary Heavner (Discipline). Sean and Brad Kleiner said they will make sure Gary receives the report.

REFEREES REPORT

Brad Kleiner said work continues on the development of a referee coaching program. Work is underway for a Match officials clinic at Saranac.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Rosalie MacGowan said Ken Pape and Sharon Berger met last evening (June 18) to cover financial items. Currently there is approximately \$70K in the bank. \$5K is bond money to be returned to clubs hosting 7s tournaments. Rosalie said it is reasonable to assume, based on history, there will be \$60K in the bank at year's end.

Some potential areas of funding: Non-budgeted funding; national stipend for referees; player stipends; bonus / incentives for clubs.

Rosalie said she has been in discussion with three accounting professionals. The consensus is to set up a new business with the various states EGU covers. Projections would be \$10-12K. She also brought up considerations on how the Board views the financial picture moving forward - allocating money to reserves, operating as a net-zero organization, etc.

Ken Pape asked Gary Heavner to coordinate with Michael Crafton on MetNY funds and start discussions. Gary said the last seated Board of MetNY is in control of those funds. There is \$125K+ in the bank account.

NEW BUSINESS

Old Blue (1. Eligibility Ruling; 2. Refs; 3. Upstate D2; 4. CIPP \$ - USA Rugby)

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator