

November 8, 2020

Members present: Nick House, Melissa Wheeler, Hilary Walsh, Kurtis Thornhill, Bradon Kilfoy, Kathleen Sullivan, Elias Syed, Sarah Hoddinott, Dana Howse (MZU), Kelly Knight (SOUL), David Whitney-Brown

Board-Related Updates:

- Nick welcomes new members to the Board
- Board members are responsible for submitting conflict of interest disclosures. Email disclosures will be fine and can be sent to Melissa at vp@ultimatenl.ca. It is advised that all volunteer positions/ positions of authority in the ultimate community be logged (real or perceived conflicts of interest).
 - Brandon asks if he should disclose all of his engagements as a player (e.g. player in MAUL, player of Regiment, player of Beer Pressure) and while it is not necessary to log player engagements, if someone perceives there may be a conflict of interest, they are encouraged to disclose that in the email they send.
- Nick reminds Board members that they are responsible for keeping track of their designated tasks and assignments during each meeting; members are encouraged to take notes during every meeting.
- Nick mentions that we have done a good job as an organization in finding opportunities to expand our programming and encourages everyone to suggest new ideas at meetings for Board discussion.
- Communications Director update: Kurtis has posted the position on a number of volunteer websites. Kurtis and Nick interviewed one interested member, but then another applicant came in through the MUN Student Volunteer Bureau, and Kurtis and Nick will interview that individual in the next few days and compare the two.
 - The caveat with the individuals is that neither have played ultimate before and neither are Ultimate NL members.
 - There is nothing in the Ultimate NL bylaws about having non-members as Directors. An option would be to have the individual as the Chair of the Communications Committee.
 - Sully speaks up to acknowledge it is good to be promoting the position outside of our community but asks if we have done any promotion within our community. Kurtis is open to putting some more promotion posts up within our community. Sully reiterates it would be preferable to have someone from our community fill the role.
 - Nick will put up a post tomorrow for the Communications Director position on Facebook. Melissa will put out some tweets. Timeline will be an extra week.

2020-21 Program Planning:

- Nick provides Trello link which has a spreadsheet complete with all of our requested bookings of venues for 2020-21. Most are at the TechniPlex but some are at the PowerPlex (elementary school provincials and winter youth league) and CNA (coaching courses).

- The spreadsheet has a column for 'actions' so Board members can keep track of activity using that block.
- Last Ultimate NL event for 2020 is HuckFest (Dec. 28 at the TechniPlex).
- Sully suggests we use the C4UC tryout slots for clinics if Ultimate Canada postpones C4UC for this year. She thinks it would be very useful as a follow-up to the masters skill series. Nick thinks it would be a good idea since it is in the time before the leagues start spring leagues.

Upcoming Events Update

- Ultimate Canada Conference is next weekend. Registration was due on Friday but Nick emailed Danny (UC ED) and he would be willing to have some of us fit in for sessions. \$30 registration for athletes and \$50 for the admin stream.
 - Beth Beattie may be on the Diversity & Inclusion panel (she recently won an award for her inclusion activities).
 - If Board members are interested in attending, we have room in our operational budget for attendance. David and Nick are interested. Sarah is willing to do the registration process or Board members can register and get reimbursed.
 - Kelly is wondering if it would be useful for SOUL to attend the League Forum and Nick says it would be very useful.
 - Nick will email Danny and let him know we have some interested individuals looking to register for the Conference.
- Sport NL AGM is Saturday, November 21. Time is 9am-3pm.
 - Nick will be attending and would like another individual to attend. Melissa and Sully attended last year. Sully will be moving that weekend so cannot attend and Melissa is a maybe (interested in seeing the agenda before signing on).
- COVID-19 Update: our insurance provider is considering providing a COVID-19 specific insurance policy.
 - This add-on insurance policy will be free for leagues as the cost is being incurred by Sport NL.
 - Nick asks if any league reps have any questions to provide back to Sport NL (no questions received).
- Neuropsychiatric Patient Association of NL Clinic: Kurtis got in contact with the volunteer coordinator of the organization and thought this could be a fun opportunity for us to run a clinic to help out the patients.
 - In the communication with the association, it was learned that funds are tight for the group right now, so Kurtis is wondering if/ how we could turn the clinic into a fundraiser for the organization.
 - Nick is wondering about the specifics for this clinic and what would be needed (e.g. 1/3 of the TechniPlex?). Kurtis notes that it would have to be an accessible venue and some of the patients have transportation needs. Nick thinks we might have some extra space to make this work in the bookings we have right now.
 - Sully asks how many individuals might attend this clinic and Kurtis says planning is very preliminary but thinking maybe a dozen.

Sport Development Update:

- Masters Skills Series just concluded, 6 weeks - each week was a different topic.
- Feedback: some players wanted more game-play/ game-situations; some players wanted the series to run longer than 6 weeks; players were really appreciative for the opportunity to be coached while learning.
- Sully would like to take the rules-learning out of the skills series in the future and instead incorporate a different way to learn the rules (still brainstorming how that would work).
- Kelly speaks up as a participant and notes that sometimes there was a lot of talking but it was understandable as some of the participants were asking a lot of questions.
- Nick wonders if we can use already-existing quizzes to supplement the rules learning. Sully agrees it would be useful but would like more of an opportunity for participants to engage with someone who can answer questions.
- Elias asks if Sully took note of attendance (how many signed up and how many showed up each week). Sully kept attendance (48 players for week 1 and 2, between 40-43 for the remaining weeks).

Schools Update:

- One positive to the COVID-19 impact on the School Sport NL calendar is that outdoor ultimate got a lot of positive attention for being a sport that could actually be played. Gym teachers also got on board with outdoor ultimate this year.
- St. John's Regional tournament just concluded this past Thursday at King George V field (round robin play took place last Sunday, final was supposed to be Monday but weather was stormy - postponed to Thursday evening). Holy Heart 2 won over Holy Heart 1 in the finals, 12-11.
- 8 teams total representing 7 schools (Holy Heart had two teams). St. Bon's won the spirit (sportsmanship) award. Holy Trinity High is a brand new ultimate team and entered the tournament and got their first win as a school.
- Hilary is hopeful that the positivity around this tournament will translate to success for the high school tournament in the spring.
- Hilary notes that each roster was quite large which is also a positive thing.
- Nick wonders if we should have a volunteer at events such as the regional to answer questions for parents or provide a sign-up sheet to join our newsletter. He also wonders if we should have some promotional banners to place around at tournaments (Ultimate NL-related). There should be room for these materials in our Communications budget.
- Hilary notes that all the registration fees cover the price of the KGV fields (\$1,294). Hilary sent all the collected funds to the St. Bon's accountant and the accountant will send to SSNL.

Other Business Updates:

- Now that we are starting a new year with a new Board, Nick mentions that he would like to get us using more committees.
 - The first committee that we could put together easily is the Diversity & Inclusion Committee as this is something Melissa was hoping to do anyway.

- Melissa would like to put out a call for members using our newsletter and social media channels. Ideally, there would be an Expression of Interest form (similar to the Ultimate Canada EOI that was sent out recently for its Diversity & Inclusion Committee). There's no plan to turn members away that are interested, but the ideal number of participants would likely be around 12 (but open to be changed depending on whoever is interested).
- Nick would like David to put together a Storm Committee, Sully to put together a Sport Development Committee, and potentially a Communications Committee.
- Sarah notes that we have some follow-up requests after our AGM for more information to be provided to our membership. Sarah is wondering if we are obligated to respond to significant information inquiries and if we should look into it. Nick asks if anyone else has any not-for-profit experience and asks Dana specifically as she is the Financial Officer for MZU. Dana isn't sure on how she would proceed with this request given that she doesn't know the context or the nature. Melissa speaks up and asks if anyone has had any experience with this or any commentary or feedback on the situation as we haven't had a situation like this before and we would like to have some sort of discussion on how we should proceed with similar situations in the future.

League Updates:

MAUL: currently running a Parity league (3 weeks left). Tempest has been volunteering to take stats for the league. MAUL booked a time for the MAUL/ SWURL/ SOUL Holiday Charity Game on December 21st, 8-9pm.

SWURL: currently running an indoor league, 8 weeks 6v6. The skill level is really good right now, definitely improvements week to week. AGM will be in the first week or two in December - TBD. The Board will be meeting next week to determine plans and programming for the next few months.

MZU: currently running an indoor BIY league (going until Dec. 14). AGM coming up on Nov. 19 at the Elks Club. All Board positions are open for anyone who might be interested. Once the new Board is put in place there will be some more news about league planning.

(Nick speaks up to ask if there was any rationale for not running a masters league in the Fall and Dana can't remember off the top of her head but believes it was because it was tough to mitigate the 30-minute in between competitions clause due to COVID-19. Sully speaks up to ask if the 4v4 competitive league will be run again and Dana says that'll be up to the new Board.) Additionally, MZU is going through the process of incorporating as a not-for-profit.

- Nick mentions that Ultimate NL submitted an emergency sport relief program funding proposal on behalf of Ultimate NL, MAUL and MZU. Bill Taggart at the Department of TCAR said to Nick that the proposal will almost certainly be approved (our proposal is a lot smaller than almost every other PSO's.)

SOUL: currently running indoor league, 72 participants with an active sub list. There have been a few injuries this league so there is some consideration to ensuring participants warm-up. There has been no planning for winter leagues yet but there will be some sort of programming (clinics, scrimmages or a league - reliant upon field space).