



Our Mission: *To improve the quality of life for GLBTQ individuals by building community through the sport of volleyball.*

**Board of Directors Meeting #08-11
Tues. May 12, 2009**

Location: HAF (Hispanic AIDS Forum) Conference Room
213 West 35th Street

Attendees:

Lew Smith	Commissioner
Seth Eichenholtz	Vice-Commissioner
Donald Orloski	Secretary
Josh Christensen	Treasurer
Rich Reid	Division 1 Rep
Henry Vera	Division 2 Rep
Greg Hughes	Division 3 Rep
Kleber Suarez	Division 4 Rep
Omar Portillo	Division 5 Rep
Sarah Cullen	Division 6 Rep/Webmaster
Travis Pouliot	Division 7 Rep
Wladimir Thomas	Division 8 Rep
David Jordan	Division 9 Rep
Don Murray	Ex Officio/Grievance Committee Chairperson

Bob Arcari	Member-At-Large/ Tournament Director
Joe Hom	Member-At-Large/ League Manager
Rene Deida	Member-At-Large/ Development Director
Alan Amechazurra	Member-At-Large/ Assistant Treasurer
Craig Skelton	Member-At-Large/ Assistant Secretary
Billy Bowden	Member-At-Large/ Power Manager
John Rappaport	Member-At-Large/ Social Director
Scott Schmidt	Power A Rep
Sonny Mulia	Power B Rep
Dominic Borgia	Power C Rep
Pam Tong	Power D Rep
Rex Chou	Power E Rep
Daryl Cochrane	Power F Rep
Leah Hughey	Team Power

Bold = in attendance.

Lew called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. It was determined that the Power representatives with voting privileges would be Pam, Dom and Scott for this meeting.

I. Approval of Minutes



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Motion: Reid motioned, seconded by Josh to approve the Minutes from the Tues. March 10, 2008, Meeting # 08-10 after minor corrections. The motion passed by a voice vote with Joe and Bob abstaining.

II. Open Forum

We have two non-Board Gotham members, Justin Hill and Eric Eichenholtz joining this Board meeting. They have no comment at this time.

III. Officers' Reports

Commissioner

Spring Election

The results are in for the recent election including the election of the 2009-2010 Executive Board, By-laws proposals and Captains for the Fall 2009 season:

The Gotham Executive Board Members for 2009-2010 are:

		Vote count
Seth Eichenholtz	Commissioner	462 to 19 for other
Josh Christensen	Vice-Commissioner	460 to 4 for other
Rex Chou	Treasurer	234 to 206, 4 for other
Travis Pouliot	Secretary	251 to 201, 3 for other

By-law proposals:

To modify the way Power representatives vote:

The proposal is to have 3 elected At-large Power reps. and still have Power Assistants to help with classes.

Passed 410 to 49

To have members running for Executive Board to be part of the Board within the past three years:

The proposal is that Gotham member must have been a member of the Board within the last 3 years in order to run for an Executive Board position.

Passed 317 to 140

A list of Captains and Alternates for the Fall 2009 season are noted and were emailed out to the membership.



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Motion: Joe motioned, seconded by Alan to approve and ratify the results of the election. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Lew will notify those members not selected for the Executive Board this evening and the entire membership with an email flash shortly after.

The approximate voter turn-out was approximately 90%.

Vice-Commissioner

Seth would like to thank the people he most works with: the League and Power Managers, Joe and Billy. They both worked very hard in maintaining good communication and worked hard in maintaining equipment. Seth said it was a pleasure being Vice-Commissioner and look forward to continuing as Commissioner. There are a number of open positions for the Board. Seth will email to ask for membership interest and asks board member's help in encouraging people to apply. He is also considering creating an email list of interested members so they could see opportunities to help with league activities in some capacity, assuming there is more interest than positions.

Secretary

Donald is saying farewell in his capacity as Secretary but hopes to stay involved in some fashion. He would like to wish Travis the best on his tenure.

Treasurer

Josh notes the League's balance report: Chase Checking \$21,645, Chase Savings \$69,125. WaMu accounts: Money Market \$13,028, Fire Island \$2456, League \$3274, Platinum Savings \$314.95, Big Apple. \$2272. All changes in balances are from paying referees and Power coaches.

IV. Old Business

- AIDS Walk Update

34 people are registered and group's total is approaching to \$13,000. Goal is \$15,000 (original goal was \$5,000)

This is the first time Gotham is participating as a team. T-shirts with our new logo will be available for walkers. We are no longer in the Top 20 fundraisers. Lew mentioned that Big Apple proceeds will go towards the AIDS Walk and HAF. June 12th is the cut-off for raising money. Team meeting place is in alphabetical order; meet at 9 am. T-shirts will go to the top 25 walkers who show up. The links and route will be sent out to the walkers. (Joe noted that Stop 3 has food and drinks). The Board thanks Omar for his efforts. He in turn thanks co-captains including Pam and members



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who raised large amounts: Dave Gill, Erick Wilund and Michael Paletta. He also thanked Josh and Sarah for help with the shirts. Joe noted that with overall donations and participation down, Omar should especially be commended for his efforts and the League involvement.

- Fall Calendar 2009

There are several options for try-outs for the Fall: Labor happens earlier in the month of September than usual. If we do our traditional two weekend try-out schedule, we can do Sept 12/13 and Sept 19/20. We would then not have enough weeks for the season and the try-outs would conflict with Jewish holidays. We could try all nine divisions on one weekend: Sept 12th: Div 1/2 and then Div 2/4/5 later in the day. Sept 13: 6/7/8 and then 9. The day; however, would long for Board members. Another option would be to start before Labor Day. If that would be the case, we would want to notify membership ASAP. We could also do Sept. 12/13 and Sept. 19/20 but then would have an abbreviated season.

We could do Div 1/2 on a weekday but it was difficult with the captains. We could only do new players to Div 1/2. The general consensus is not to try-out before Labor Day. Why is Div 5 with 3/4? This is because they play 6-2. There had been discussion on expanding the number of teams in the upper divisions but this may be possible in the next Spring season. John R. thinks doing all the divisions together is a good idea but doesn't Sept. 12th conflict with Boston Tournament? It does but Boston is close to being full. Josh mentioned that some delay happens with the start of try-outs because many Div 1/2 players not pre-registering. We need to emphasize that players need to register on-line prior to coming to coming to try-outs..

Bob mentioned that we could do league play and tournaments in January. The last week of play would be close to the Christmas holidays. The consensus is not to start try-outs before Labor Day. But the exact dates will be looked at off-line and at the next Board meeting in June with the considerations noted.

- EOS (End of Season) Party

There will be a Flash sent out to Gotham membership about the party this Saturday. Board Members need to come at 6:30 pm – they should be able to get in. There is a request to have music lower at the beginning; We need volunteers for the door – Dom and John R. volunteer. Josh mentions not let members use other member's names for entrance. We will continue with a program; give guest names to Donald. We also need a list of volunteer coaches and tournament winners for the program. Josh will send Donald the names of Power reps and coaches.

- Payment options

Chase has modified the way checks are deposited; they now limit to 30 at a time. Going to the branch and doing check deposit slips is difficult. Chase does offer a machine that scans checks. The service is \$50 months but there is a 24-month commitment. We encourage people to use Pay



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Pal. We could ask members to pay a fee if a check is used to pay dues. Do we need to encourage the use of Pay Pal even more? Omar suggest raising the dues for all and then “discount” if Pay pal is used. Should we insist on players paying on Pay Pal? Should we not allow cash? Can we add box/optional text field to note whom payment is for? Currently, Pay Pal allows an exporting of info which makes this complicated. This will start in Fall; we will allow this to ruminate with the group and confirm at the next Board meeting.

V. New Business

- Pride Parade

We need a volunteer to help with Gotham’s participation in the Gay Pride Parade in June. It involves making plans for the Gotham meeting place and making arrangements for the parade vehicle. T-shirts are usually a duplicate of the Summer season’s. The volunteer to run this would need to march the entire parade. We have the same vehicle as last year.

- Logo

Dom and Sarah are working on fine-tuning the new logo. The gray and the number of colors in the ball need to be balanced.

- Fire Island Tournament

The date is July 18th. The party last year was held at Whitehall Community Hall and now there interest from Fire Island business owners too. There are 60 teams and there are doubles teams (consideration has been made so we will not have to keep changing the court size to accommodate). Josh is unable to be there the day off; Lew has agreed to help that day but Josh is arranging logistics before hand. Rene and Billy are helping with the party. Board members who are playing need to help with set-up, especially with net set-up. John Orcutt is helping with organizing volunteers. No email concerning the FI Tournament has not been sent out yet; it will when registration opens (about a month prior to the event). Scott asked about the limits of Div 1 players on 4-player teams, but Josh is balancing 4-player teams and doubles. Having doubles on Sunday was discussed but it is difficult to have set-up on two days.

VI. Representatives’ Reports

- League Manager

Joe thanks all for great season. All awards are ordered.

- Power Manager

Power season was a smash.



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- Development

Not present.

- Tournaments

Tournaments were successful and almost all were over-subscribed. No Friendship Tournaments will be held over the summer. Omar asked about theme tournaments – such as Women’s. John had success with non-Gotham events with themes. John mentioned that space allocation is the issue. Seth said this will be considered and needs to be discussed with the Board.

With space allocation discussion, Leah brought up having both Team Powers on Mondays or at least having it on the same night. Josh mentioned that it is hard to balance the needs of weeknight for 4-2 players within the limitations of a set schedule. It can be discussed for next season. Dom mentioned that it is hard to have the back-to-back Power classes. It is suggested that we discuss in more detail at a future meeting. Seth confirmed that Jeff has been part of discussion on Team Power timing/day.

Try-outs for Summer season will be Monday June 1 at 6:30 pm. Interested Board members please email Seth.

- Web Mistress

Nothing to report.

VII. Announcements

Don thanked Lew for his service and the rest of the Board.

John R. is looking forward to Chicago for Nationals.

Billy enjoyed being Power Manager and has exciting news on a product he taking; he will share more in the future.

Bob finished 4th in Baltimore, highest at a NAGVA tournament. Bob is excited by the interest by new members to the Board and the energy they bring.

Joe is excited by much in his life – house-warming party in June and going to nationals and possibly OutGames.

Rex is excited to be Treasurer.

Henry thanked Lew and the entire Board for their support.

Omar would like to thank all and glad after 10 years in the league, he became more involved. He also thanked Leah as his first coach (He gave her a teddy bear al those years ago).

Scott is moving from NYC in June and is having a going away party.

Donald said farewell and thanked the other Executive Board members and Craig for their support. He also had a great season.



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Craig's team was #1 in the Season and Tournament!
Sarah is also leaving NYC. She thanks and will miss everyone!
Seth thanks Lew, Donald and the whole Board.
Lew (getting emotional) thanks everyone. He had a great year. He felt the Executive Board was a great team. He wishes the next Executive Board good luck. He wished Scott and Sarah the best with their moves. He looks forward to continue his involvement with NAGVA.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion: Rich motioned, seconded by Scott – To adjourn – Passed by acclamation. Meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.