



EVRD League meeting Minutes  
 Meeting Date: Thursday March 14/2024  
 Meeting Location: Slovakian Canadian Association Hall  
 Meeting Start Time: 7:00pm

<b>Board of Director Attendance:</b>			
Chair: Grace Bones (Erika Olbey)	Co-Chair: Mary F'n Sunshine (Tracy Primc)	PR Director: vacant	Administration Director: Magic Wanda (Bonnie Richards)
Athletics Director: Emsky Hammer (Emma Goodall) ABSENT	Games Director: Resident Weevil (Rachel Keglowitsch)	Finance Director: Hoochie (Lesley McDonald)	Junior Rep: Curvicious (Nerissa Hymers)

#	Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item
	Attendance	In attendance: Stefunky, Spittany, Caalla, Ali, Switchblade, Iza, Trip, Cheeky, Smacks, Cryology, Chile, NHOJ, Weevil, Wanda, Grace, Mary, Hoochie, Curvicious, Killerina, Dadpool	
	Call to order	Grace called the meeting to order at 7:09pm.	
	Froot Loop event June 1st	Grace - save the date for June 1st to volunteer at a Froot Loop block party event at the Grindstone Theatre. There will also be a party at the Starlite Room on June 8th - maybe an after-after party after our bout?	
	PR Position	PR Position is still open - Grace would like to pass it off or have someone to help with social media. Stefunky wonders what that entails? Media coverage, press releases, social media, promotion in general. Also thank you to Iza for the PR work done while she was in the position!	
	COIP Grant	Our COIP grant application has gone in - there may have been a delay if a strike was happening, but it looks like that may be avoided. We needed data from the sense of community survey that Grace had sent out - we had 19 people respond. The grant focuses on programming for underserved communities, ie 2SLGBTQIA+. Grace will brainstorm how to further collect that data. <a href="#">EVRD Sense of Community Index Survey Q1 2024 RESULTS.docx</a>	
	Code of Conduct	Everyone please re-read the Code of Conduct which is based on the Four Agreements - Wanda has pinned the post in slack. Wanda will also pin the bylaws document in slack for everyone's reference.	



<p>Training Updates (Emsky not here)</p>	<p>Spring schedule is now set - Grace brought physical copies and Curvicious will help get all dates up on the google calendar. We will try to have an NSO night or an outdoor practice or a footage night on the couple where we don't have venues booked. Please double check venues for each practice!</p>	
<p>Practice Etiquette</p>	<p>Please arrive prior to practice start time and plan to be geared up and on the rink at start time. Please don't talk over trainers. Do drills rather than talking about them.</p>	
<p>Events/Games Update - Weevil</p>	<p>Weevil gave the game survey results. <a href="#">Games Survey results</a> Weevil has also been talking to Mal (NFRD) and Skator Moon (Wetaskiwin) about level 3 juniors. It seems like having 10 skaters committed to a game would be a good start and then we could pick up skaters after that, like Calgary has done. Fort Mac and Medicine Hat don't have enough skaters to fill a team so they often join other teams. There are possibilities of a May 18th tournament in Prince George as well as something July 27th at Terminal City (Vancouver).</p>	
<p>June 8th Double Header</p>	<p>June 8th double header will be a WFTDA gender game vs the Jane Deeres plus a juniors invitational scrimmage. Jane Deeres will have A level skaters with them, so everyone is welcome to skate, including drop ins. Weevil will post again to the general slack channel.</p>	
<p>Plant fundraiser/financial update</p>	<p>Hoochie's updates - we need to sell 100 plant baskets by March 22nd (not including herbs). Strawberries and tomatoes count as planters! There is about \$17000 in the bank account (\$6800 belongs to the juniors). New E-Ville patches will be here next week and will be sold for \$10 each - they're fully embroidered.</p>	
<p>Juniors update</p>	<p>Curvicious updates - the juniors are currently under the EVRD umbrella now after GEJRDA closed down - that's where the \$6800 came from. We need more junior skaters! The money will help cover the rental space, and also help buy some loaner gear. Planning for a weekend intensive/bootcamp for juniors - learn to skate/learn to derby at the end of June! Also we've signed up for the JRDA of Canada.</p>	
<p>Grace personal update</p>	<p>Grace will not be on skates for some time, but please contact her on slack. She's available!</p>	
<p>Open Gender Policy Review</p>	<p>Mary - 30-35% of our membership has had feedback regarding three approaches: WFTDA gender, open gender, or a mixed approach. There are three ways to give feedback:</p>	



	<p>speak during the meeting here, give anonymous feedback on the survey, or contact skater relations. Please come from a lens of active listening - no personal attacks and no cross talk. There will be two rounds of speaking. The survey will be open until March 21st - you can go back and edit your responses until then. No percentages on the survey will be discussed today so as to not skew the potential results.</p>	
Skater relations - Cheeky	<p>Cheeky read comments from an email received by skater relations as well as some anonymous comments from the survey. One read, "Ultimately I moved to Eville because it felt like a safe place emotionally and physically, partially due to the fact that it was a women only league. I would like to feel that safety again in order to continue to pursue the sport that I love and that has contributed to my life in so many positive ways." <a href="#">Skater Relations Survey Results to Share</a></p>	
Survey - Mary	<p>Mary's summary of the survey so far: <a href="#">Open gender policy review - Mary</a></p>	
Open floor discussion	<p>Stefunky says it feels rude to say "I'm out" when someone comes up in a drill, and leaves the WFTDA gender person in the spot of being exclusionary.</p> <p>Trip says that it's uncomfortable for both parties to exclude someone in the moment - splitting up is better. Trip won't play open gender games/scrim as preference. Community-wise, there are very few women-only spaces. Women who are domestic violence survivors etc may not be joining derby because of the open gender policy - we'd likely increase membership rather than decrease it. WFTDA was created for women's empowerment. Trip loves men refs, trainers, MRDA skaters, but women-only is a positive thing.</p> <p>Ali wonders what women only would say to non-binary people. Grace explains that "WFTDA gender" is women AND gender expansive individuals - basically anyone except cis-men. Ali asks if empowerment means being able to say "I'm not comfortable" and own your own trauma, and the safety of being able to choose at each moment in time.</p> <p>Cheeky resonates with what Trip said - Cheeky played when E-Ville was women only, and when returning to play, found it hard to say something in the moment as to not seem unkind. Cheeky prefers WFTDA gender but recognizes that's hard to do in practice.</p>	



	<p>Curvicious wonders what the next steps are. Grace says that the survey closes March 21st, then the board will look at the data and take a general direction. At this point it's not clear whether the board will decide or if the league will vote - this has been a bit of a rushed process and we want to make sure to make a good decision.</p> <p>Mary says that we will look at the survey data, and that she believes that something needs to change when members have so much feedback. There are some barriers, such as people paying the same amount of dues but having less access to practices, if we went with the mixed approach. It's important to look at all factors here, and the board needs time and space to gather information. The league is always evolving. Currently in Alberta advanced players must play open gender as there aren't many WFTDA gender spaces right now. Men can play any sport, but women can't just jump right in in the same way. Inclusion used to mean that men could be refs/NSOs/etc. We need to reflect on "What does my ideal league look like?" and also share solutions to the barriers of each of the three possible approaches.</p> <p>Trip wonders if the board has done research outside our league - Mary has been talking to Chinook and CRDA about their previous decision not to amalgamate and where they are at now. She's also talking to founding members and leagues of different sizes to find out as much as possible.</p> <p>Curvicious asks about the next steps, ie when will the board next speak to the league? Survey until the 21st, maybe give the board until April 4th</p> <p>NHOJ says that there are many conversations going on, and that currently there are only 3 men in the greater Edmonton area playing derby. Male juniors need somewhere to go when they age out of juniors. NHOJ believes that E-Ville has previously been seen as elite level, and that we need to plan for the future.</p> <p>Trip says that Eville is not elite anymore post-pandemic - now the elite team in the area is Red Deer. The reassessment of the league at this point shows that any decision is not a permanent thing. At the time the decision was made, going open gender made sense but more men did not come. The league has infinite ability to reassess. Trip appreciates the amount of work the board is doing, and we need to consider the present, past, and future membership.</p>	
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	<p>Stefunky wonders if the Danielle Smith rules regarding women’s sports affects this decision at all, and asks when the league switched to open gender.</p> <p>Mary and Grace gave some history - 2018 was when amalgamation with OCRD (an open gender league) was considered. EVRD as a league voted to pursue amalgamation without any nitty gritty decisions. Amalgamation ultimately failed because OCRD was no longer interested, and it was unclear if OCRD would continue as a league. Other leagues around Edmonton had also folded. E-Ville went open gender in January 2023 to try and increase membership.</p> <p>Dadpool (Doug) gave a comment and observation as someone somewhat outside the league but as a part of the greater derby community as the parent of juniors - he commends us for reaching out to other leagues. He thinks that high level competition is open gender. He believes this league is years behind and wonders how many of the people with concerns are clinging to “that’s how it’s always been done”. He’s not discounting having a safe place for women in sport, but the sport has evolved and is it a “good old days” thing? Leagues can’t field four house teams and a travel team anymore and he doesn’t feel that inclusion has hurt leagues. If there is merit based consideration, it’s simply about playing an A level game, not based on age or gender.</p> <p>Killerina says, from a junior skater perspective, that high level juniors are pushing to play with adults because there are only 3 level 3 juniors in northern Alberta. In Red Deer there are not enough junior skaters to play without joining adults.</p> <p>Grace thanks everyone for sharing. If you want to get more comments in, please send to skater relations or post more comments on the survey without answering the polls again (to not skew the data). It’s hard work keeping the league running - thanks to everyone for pitching in. With rookies coming up and a new program coming, it’ll get easier. Not everyone wants to play super competitively. Maybe some people want a rec level rather than WFTDA charter level.</p> <p>There are so many great minds in this league!</p> <p>Iza says that it’ll come back.</p> <p>Mary says that in 2007 E-Ville was in a teeny growth phase and came back from that - we can do it again!</p> <p>Cheeky says we need to tie every event to recruitment, even our Millennium Place practices, etc.</p>	
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		<p>Hoochie says that the weekend junior boot camp is a good idea, and maybe we could do that for adults as well., Mary says that public events are time to recruit. Bring some energy! Have some fun! And make some money! Iza wants to get some flyers for the June 8th game to put up. Trip says that retention is also super important - how to keep people and how to bring people back.</p>	
	June 8th Game Committee forming - Weevil	<p>Weevil asks for people interested in the game on June 8th to be on the game/event committee to give opinions/ideas AND to help out.</p>	
	Adjournment	<p>Grace adjourns the meeting at 8:40pm.</p>	