

**Team Saint Louis
Meeting Minutes
(Atomic Cowboy)
May 22, 2008**

Meeting called to order at @7:05 by Michael Regier, President who welcomed 13 members.

Alice Tejada took down the minutes and read the February 28, 2008 meeting minutes. Motion was carried to approve and post on the website.

Michael Brown distributed and read the Treasurer's Report.

I. BUDGET/BUDGET FORECAST:

- A) An updated financial statement was distributed by MBrown which included figures for the Variety Show, Crazy Bowl, Scott Trade Center and Trivia Night.
- B) BNeely requested a more detailed Treasurer's Report to include accounting for each fundraising event and associated expenditures.
- C) MBrown distributed the TSL contact sheet for verification, updating.

II. TRAVEL:

- A) MBrown stated that the Committee has been dissolved due to lack of team member participation. So, as of now, there are no organized travel plans underway for Copenhagen.

Alternatives:

- i. Each team member is responsible for securing their own travel arrangements.
 - ii. Any team member is welcome to resurrect an organized activity with Board approval.
- B) Travel to Copenhagen and Cologne is seeing a consistent rise in cost due to rising fuel costs. Currently, projected costs for Copenhagen is @\$3-5,000 pp.- airfare, hotel, registration, incidentals have factored into this figure.
- C) OutSports article referencing the OutGames. See Exhibit 1.

Article's bias may be skewed since the article referenced by OutSports is an anti-gay publication. However, if Copenhagen is currently in debt this could result in the cancellation of the OutGames. Team members are encouraged to wait on registration.

III. MERCHANDISE:

- A) There has been no recent communication with JRuot since January '08. BNeely and/or MRegier will contact via phone for an update.

IV. FUNDRAISING:

- A) Meeting held April 23rd. 7 persons in attendance.
- B) Fundraisers to date:
 - i. Variety Show (March 21st) raised @\$1,361.00
 - ii. Crazy Bowl joint venture with Band Together (April 5th) raised @\$485.00

- iii. Trivia Night (April 19th) raised @\$1,930.00.
- iv. Scott Trade Center concessions @\$177.00; income from February/March still pending.

C) Future Events / Recap

- i. Pride: June 28-29, 2008, Margarita Booth.
Coordinator: DLee (TWalsh assisting with volunteer recruitment)
- ii. Team Shock Volleyball Tournament, Stratford Bar: August 23, 2008
Coordinator: ATejada
- iii. Team Saint Louis Volleyball Tournament, Stratford Bar: September 27, 2008
Coordinator: DMiller/TWalsh
- iv. TSL Wii Tournament, Grey Fox: October 26, 2008
Coordinator: SMcVay, DMiller, TMurphy
- v. TSL joint venture with St. Louis Equality Dance, Dance Extravaganza, location TBD: November 8 or 15; or December 6
Coordinator: SFuriya, ATaylor, ATejada
- vi. TSL Invitational VB Tournament (NAGVA): February 13-15, 2009
- vii. Variety Show: March 13, 2009
- viii. Trivia Night: 27 tables, positive response. Use of the caterer raised our expenses however, BNeely recommended that we raise our prices to factor the use of the caterer. Additionally, the caterer is responsible for securing the liquor license and providing the beer, soft drinks, water. Caterer charge = \$7.00 pp. TSL Trivia nite = \$20-25 pp.

Next Trivia Night = April 18, 2009

D) Pride STL – Margarita Booth: Agreement received. Currently in process. MRegier will request a meeting with Pride to discuss policies/procedures. Meeting to include TSL Booth Coordinator(s). DLee has volunteered as Lead Coordinator. TWalsh will assist with recruitment of volunteers.

E) Next Meeting: TBD

V. PR / OUTREACH:

A) “New” TSL website went live May 21st. JPrivitor has updated/re-designed the site. Log-in no longer required. Press release has been issued to announce the launch of the re-designed website – Exhibit 2. All future emails and announcements will be sent via the website. The Hotmail account will no longer be used to distribute announcements.

B) MEbel stated that the next Social Event will be a “Dog Walk”, June 22nd tentatively. STL Humane Society will provide pets for “rent” and PetsMart has agreed to provide training sessions for pets. Location: TBD.

C) Committee will coordinate the Information Tent at Pride.

D) Next meeting: May 29th at Absolutli Goosed.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

A) JGoodwin and BHopson hosted an HRC event at The Bogen @Washington Ave., MRegier and SMcVay attended. Mayor Francis Slay was also an attendee. MRegier was a featured speaker and spoke about TSL's goals and mission. MRegier has remained in contact with Mayor Slay.

B) At the end of March, TSL received a questionnaire from the IRS regarding the 501(c)3 application. All questions have been answered to their satisfaction, anticipating notification from the IRS by next month.

C) Once TSL receives notification, we can proceed with grant funding and sponsorship.

D) Upcoming elections:
October 2008 for President, Secretary and PR/Outreach
October 2009 for Vice-President and Treasurer.

Next TSL general meeting: TBD

2009 Outgames faces financial hurdles

The 2009 gays sports event in Copenhagen has been unsuccessful in wooing many corporate sponsors and faces a large budget gap.

By [Jim Buzinski](#)
Outsports.com

The 2009 Outgames, set for next summer in Copenhagen, Denmark, is running into the same financial difficulties that have plagued other worldwide gay sports events the past two decades. With little more than a year to go, the organizers have raised roughly half of what they have budgeted.

In 2007, for example, the Outgames organization raised only \$31,000 in private donations, according to reporting in Copenhagen's [Nyhedsavisen](#) newspaper. The group's overall budget is \$12.5 million, with \$4.1 million coming from the city of Copenhagen, according to an [Outgames report](#). Based on a hoped-for 8,000 participants, the group would get \$2 million in registration fees. The remaining \$6.4 million was expected to come from private sponsors; it is not determined whether the city or national governments would contribute more.

"Something seems horribly wrong and this might lead to a financial disaster like Montreal [in 2006]," Danish journalist [Lars Fogt](#) told Outsports. The event's CEO is also under fire for using Outgames money to attend a friend's wedding in Texas.

The event, set for July 25 to Aug. 2, 2009, is the second world gay multisport competition planned under the Outgames banner. The first, held in Montreal in 2006, was considered an athletic success but a financial failure, with the organizers [declaring bankruptcy](#) and being \$5 million in debt (Outsports is among the businesses owed money by Montreal 2006).

The Outgames 2009 will scale back "if we do not have enough money," Copenhagen Outgames CEO [Uffe Elbæk](#) told [Nyhedsavisen](#). "It's the clear rules of the game that are defined by the management."

This spring, the Outgames has attracted an additional \$793,000 in private sponsorships, Fogt said, plus \$100,000 in airline tickets from SAS, the Scandinavian airline. The event's website lists only [six organizations](#) in its various sponsor categories. Among the organizations is Wonderful Copenhagen, the official tourist organization of Greater Copenhagen, which owns the 2009 Outgames, having formed it as a public limited company under recommendation from its largest financial backer, the Copenhagen City Council.

The Outgames is not denying the financial pressures it faces. In a [status report](#) on its website last year it bluntly stated: "Ultimately, it will be up to World Outgames Board ... and also the two consultation groups -- the political consultation group in City Hall and Wonderful Copenhagen consultation group respectively -- to assess how long we dare keep 'a cool head' with regard to the financing of project before starting to panic."

Fogt, who has been investigating the Outgames for months, said the event is not that widely known "even within Copenhagen's gay community." The city has sponsored the Outgames with an eye to the 2020 Olympics, hoping it can demonstrate an ability to host a large-scale sports event, he said.

The Outgames plans 38 sports in addition to cultural events and a human rights conference. The event is planning for 6,500 athletes and 1,500 cultural participants. However, Copenhagen might not have all the sports facilities ready in time for the event, Fogt said, and could hold swimming and tennis in Malmo, Sweden, located about 10 miles across the Strait of Orsund from Copenhagen. The Outgames website still lists both events in venues about 20 minutes from downtown Copenhagen.

The Outgames expects the bulk of its participants to come from Western Europe, North America and Australia. With the rival and more established Gay Games being held in Cologne, Germany, in 2010 and given the weakness of the American dollar versus Western

EXHIBIT 1

European currencies, it is unclear how many participants from the U.S. will venture to Copenhagen. The city was ranked in 2007 as the [sixth most-expensive](#) in the world to live in. In addition, sports registration fees run \$250 before Oct. 1 and \$313 after.

“Besides the close proximity of Copenhagen and Cologne in terms of geographic location and timing, both events are courting the same target groups, media, sponsors and sources of funding,” the Outgames says on its website.

Wedding trip questioned

In addition to the budget gap, the Outgames is dealing with potential investigations from Danish politicians over how the money is being spent. Elbæk is under criticism for spending \$1,900 of Outgames money to attend a private wedding of a good friend in Texas last year.

Of his trip to the November wedding, Elbæk told the Danish newspaper “that he had sound professional grounds for going to the wedding as the event gave him the opportunity to meet” potential sponsors. To date, the trip has not yielded any sponsors, the newspaper said. “When dealing with American foundations, it is extremely important to build up a mutual and personal confidence,” the CEO told the paper. “I saw it as a huge opportunity to save money and time by meeting lots of relevant people at the wedding instead of seeing them in a stressful office in New York.” The bride, Anne Livet, said that Elbæk could have met with the same sponsors while on a trip to New York to promote the Outgames.

“It sounds as if he has a problem with explaining the case,” professor of Public Administration at the University of Copenhagen, Tim Knudsen, [told Nyhedsavisen](#). “And I am sure that the ... auditing officials are going to be very precise in their investigation when they start their work. There is, of course, a limit for cases considered of minor importance, but this kind of a private trip with public funds goes far beyond the allowed limit.”

One conservative politician in Copenhagen, Peter Schlüter, told the paper, “I have no longer confidence in the management, which clearly doesn't have the necessary competence.” He said the event faces the same risk of financial failure as Montreal in 2006.

A member of the Copenhagen City Council agreed. “We have in any case given a large amount of money for this and that's why we want to get an explanation as quickly as possible,” said Bjarne Frey. “If an event is financed with public funds, it has to be run by the ethical standards followed by public administration. That means also that no money is spent for private purposes.”

Elbæk still has his defenders, including Cultural mayor Pia Allerslev, who told the paper, “There hasn't emerged anything that causes me to waver. If more should emerge, we must look at it.”

In addition to the money-losing Montreal Outgames in 2006, Gay Games 1990 (Vancouver), 1994 (New York), 1998 (Amsterdam) and 2002 (Sydney) also lost money.

Only the 2006 [Gay Games in Chicago](#) managed to break even; that event raised a record \$3.5 million in cash sponsorships. With the 2006 event on U.S. soil, home to most large corporate sponsors, this shows the steep climb Copenhagen faces as it tries to raise the remaining \$6 million it budgeted for.

Comments

Alan Anderson

| 72.68.171.xxx | 2008-05-19 18:30:00

If the management of the Copenhagen Outgames was smart, or cared about the good name of their home city, or had the best interests of the gay sports community at heart, they would accept the fact that are trying to sustain a losing proposition, and would just cut their losses by pulling the plug on the whole event right now. Rather than causing their host city to lose millions of dollars (like Montreal did), or damage the reputation of the LGBT sports movement overall, or produce an event that is not up to the standards that LGBT athletes have come to expect from the Gay Games, the 2009 Copenhagen Out Games should act like adults and take the high road to the solution: shut down the whole operation as soon as possible, and encourage athletes to attend the Cologne Games in 2010 instead.

EXHIBIT 1

Jacob Andersen - Communication manager

| 83.92.240.xxx | 2008-05-22 02:41:49

Before anyone run with af "half wind" as we say in Denmark. I would like to remind you all, that the article "outsports" refere to, has been publicied in the ANTI GAY newspaper Nyhedsavisen. And the journalist is known for, if not making up, the really to blow up stories.

As a way to illustrate were Nyhedsavisen stands on gay issues I would like to quote headline of the head of Nyhedsavisen last comment about gay issues he simply said.

"Stop that gay talk".

So to everybody in the USA - take et easy. I´m sure that Copenhagen is going to be the proud host of the second World Outgames.

Best Regards - Jacob

Jens Carlsen - architect

| 83.95.45.xxx | 2008-05-22 04:49:38

Strange that a gay sports publication would publish material citing an anti-gay publication and not even bother to speak with anyone from the Outgames organization. In Denmark that would be considered poor journalism. The fact is that Outgames organization is very well known in Copenhagen and we in the LGBT community here believe the games will be a success.

<http://www.outsports.com/os/index.php/Gay-Sports-Movement/News/Outgames-faces-financial-hurdles.html>

