

# Q2 Southern Fried Slammasters Meeting Minutes

## May 6, 2021

Meeting started at 7:03pm EST

- I. **Welcome from President Sarita (review meeting guidelines) and Introduction of Meeting Moderator Vice President, Cuban**
  - A. Reminder for saving comments and suggestions until the end of the meeting
    1. Leave comments in chat function and please mute mics
  
- II. **Old Business (from Last SMs Meeting)**
  - A. **Committee Updates**
    1. Cuban shared various committees and made a call for all attendees to join committees for voices to be heard
    2. Safety Committee
      - a) Released a detailed statement of intentions and goals moving forward.
        - (1) Statement was released on SoFried Poetry platforms or you can email [info@southernfriedpoetryslam.com](mailto:info@southernfriedpoetryslam.com) if you would like to be sent a copy
  
  - B. **Event Recap (January-April)**
    1. We have been very active to provide monthly events ranging from performance to Poet of the Month in order to engage our poetry community
      - a) April was National Poetry Month and Henzbo did a Haiku Hullabaloo which was hosted in the avatar-based Echo world
      - b) March Mavens Marathon was a 12 hour celebration of women in March and we plan to do it annually
      - c) Health and Wellness does monthly check in with our resident therapist, Isis.
        - (1) It's every third Tuesday of the month. Conversation this month is focused solely on mental health
        - (2) Recipe of the month by Lady S
      - d) Poet of the Month is a monthly initiative to support poets of the community. Does not just need to be superlative performances but others who are doing great things in the community
  
  - C. **SoFried Virtual Festival Poetry Festival**

1. Zoom-based bout- Shadow mentioned that this will be the basis of the competitive bouts with prelim bouts being broadcasted to social media
2. Currently working on an initiative to support teams and Indies which may need financial assistance

#### **D. Fundraising**

1. Cuban shared briefly about how various fundraisers have been successful such as \$1,000 from Adam Henze for a birthday fundraiser as well as another \$1,000

#### **New Business:**

#### **III. Treasurer's Report**

- A. We have almost met our goal for registrants needed in order to pay the guaranteed prize money
  1. We are at approximately \$10,000 with balances with our various accounts
  2. More detailed info regarding financial reports is available upon request
- B. Really trying to push \$20 memberships in order to pay for tech support and others who help with website, etc... to invest back in the community for people who support us.

#### **IV. Vacated board seat**

- A. Zachary Kluckman was a Co-VP but was unable to continue in his position due to extenuating circumstances
  1. There is now a vacancy. We are open to filling this board seat
  2. Cuban made a call for people to reach out if they want to nominate someone
  3. Cuban stated some of the commitments such as weekly board meetings which last roughly 90 minutes
- B. Sarita- According to bylaws, we can appoint someone to a board seat in the interim until we are able to hold a vote for positions in July

#### **V. Membership Push**

- A. We'd appreciate slam teams pushing members to register as members on the website as there are many perks and it is compulsory to be a member in order to compete in annual tournaments
  1. Cuban also informed people that membership allows people to get access to all events for free
- B. Membership Numbers Updates

1. Shadow- Currently 90 paid and active members with a goal of 300.

## **VI. June Tournament**

### **A. Registration Updates**

1. 16 paid teams and 7 paid Indies

### **B. Interim Tournament Director to Permanent (needs SM vote)**

1. Eddie V is currently the Interim Tournament Director. We want to vote whether he should be permanent tournament director moving forward. We can also vote on whether it will be temporary until we can vote again in the future.
  - a) Henzbo- Kirk has been mentoring Eddie and has given his blessings about Eddie
    - (1) Eddie has also been working very hard in interim capacity
    - (2) Flomentalz- Moved to consider other nominations by Slammasters
      - (a) Cuban agreed and inquired whether there would be nominations for Tournament Director
        - (i) None were nominated
    - (3) Kirk clarified that the bylaws state that the tournament director is in place until there is a time or request for a change.
      - (a) Slammasters can recommend a move to change at any time and the topic can be revisited
    - (4) -7 votes for Yay in approval for Eddie Vega as official tournament director  
-0 votes for Nay in disapproval for Eddie Vega as official tournament director

### **C. Separate Indies Finals (needs SM vote)**

1. Previously, Indie Finals was only 4 finalists but because the virtual tournament is different this year, we want Indies finals to be a separate 12-person format
  - a) This vote would be specifically for the 2021 virtual tournament
    - (1) To vote, Slammasters must have attended 3 consecutive SoFried Tournaments
      - (a) 9 votes for Yay in approval for separate 12-person Indie format for 2021 virtual tournament
      - (b) 0 votes for Nay in disapproval for separate 12-person Indie format for 2021 virtual tournament

### **D. Other Items for Vote Consideration**

1. Henzbo- For this year only, we move to have flexibility with BOD to have flexibility with regards to decisions needed to be made for this year
  - a) Slangston Hughes- Concerns about what you can and cannot have in your background
    - (1) Need to be clear about rules related to virtual events and can email more info that may assist us
  - b) Ed Mabrey- Wants to make sure that whatever rules are decided will be communicated in advance of the tournament
    - (1) Cuban mentioned
  - c) 5 votes for Yay in approval to have flexibility with BOD to have flexibility with regards to decisions needed to be made for this year
  - d) 0 votes for Nay in disapproval to have flexibility with BOD to have flexibility with regards to decisions needed to be made for this year
2. Henzbo- We want to suspend the rules regarding attendance requirements for SMs for this year only. As the current rules states, a SM needs to have attended 3 consecutive SoFried festivals. The vote protects SMs who do not attend this year's virtual tournament or last year's non-competitive tournament. As long as they attended 3 consecutive in person tournaments, missing this year's tournament would not disallow their voting privileges in 2022.
  - a) 4 votes for Yay in approval to suspend regarding attendance requirements for SMs for this year only
  - b) 0 votes for Nay in disapproval to suspend regarding attendance requirements for SMs for this year only

#### **E. Virtual Rules**

1. Zoom-based bouts
2. We are still trying to finalize rules and recommendations with pre-recorded group pieces or live group pieces
  - a) Cuban- We want to minimize tech management as possible so we are considering rules surrounding pre-recorded content.
    - (1) Pre-recorded content may be adjusted on the website
    - (2) Slangston Hughes- Other tournaments gave the pre-recorded option to teams for them to share. It would be the team's responsibility through Screen Share
3. All rules and updates can be found on our website at <https://www.southernfriedpoetryslam.com/2021-virtual-poetry-fest/>
4. If you would like to join the tournament committee, please email [info@southernfriedpoetryslam.com](mailto:info@southernfriedpoetryslam.com)
5. If you can recommend bout managers and bout emcees, please email [info@southernfriedpoetryslam.com](mailto:info@southernfriedpoetryslam.com) as well.

#### **F. Tournament Outline/Schedule**

1. 6 bouts per day over 4 days for a total of 24 bouts
2. Bouts at 5pm, 7pm, 9pm EST

3. By June 1, we will be able to communicate random bout draws, allotted bout schedules, etc...

### **G. Mandatory Volunteer from each team**

1. Henzbo- Each team is required to volunteer someone

### **H. Questions and Comments from SoFried Poetry Community**

1. El'Ja
  - a) How will side bouts and side events be handled?
    - (1) Side bouts will be in the avatar-based Echo world. We will have limited side bouts as the main focus is the tournament
      - (a) Henzbo- We do many side events throughout the year so we will have more limited events
      - (b) Shadow- Asking people to attend virtual events for hours on end is a lot so we don't want to overwhelm people
    - b) How will be able to plan for adjusting work schedules if we don't know bout draws and schedules until June 1?
      - (1) Eddie V- Ask team members to block out 5pm-11pm each day
  2. Black Phoenix
    - a) Will there be pre-selected judges?
      - (1) Cuban- Judges will be pre-selected but there will still be opportunity to protest if there is suspected bias with judging
      - (2) The goal is to have 2 alternative judges in place
      - (3) Flomentalz- Each individual slam community has supportive audiences. We should ask members or the community to judge for bouts (not ones that their teams are in)
  3. Kirk Hardesty
    - a) What about Poetry Punch? Will there be a recipe? Can we mail punch vouchers to people?
      - (1) Various ideas were shared on this important question
  4. Steph Love
    - a) If the tournament is a 4-day, how will it work with bouts?
      - (1) Cuban- Prelims would be Tuesday-Thursday with finals events on Fridays and Saturdays
  5. Ashley Lumpkin
    - a) If we are still making a decision on pre-recorded content, we should remove any language pertaining to it on the website as some teams may be preparing for pre-recorded content
  6. El'Ja

a) Have there been any decisions on where SoFried Festival will be in 2023?

(1) Cuban- Currently, there is no decision on this but we plan to have a vote on this at a future SMs meeting (Possibly in SMs meeting in this year's June tournament people can make nominations for 2023)

7. Ed Mabrey

a) Be more concrete and clear with pre-recorded content as there could be some grey areas with effects and editing.

b) When will Indies perform in virtual tournament?

(1) Cuban- We plan to have 2 Indies per bout which go in between Rounds 2 & 3

(2) Final updates on schedule for Indies Finals will be communicated

8. Steph Love

a) Side bouts will be in Echo?

(1) Cuban- Echo will be more of the hangout hub.

(2) Cuban and Shadow- Some will be in Echo avatar-based world and some may be Zoom-based broadcasted to social media or on website

Meeting Ended: 8:34pm EST