

VULS AGM – November 4, 2015

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Presented by VULS President Peter McCann

Introduction

Overall in the VULS, many successes occurred again this past year, and much like the past couple of years, 2015 was a year of steady performance, with some staff turnover and related growing pains. Development continued on our website that was launched in 2013, new staff came on board, and we continued implementation of our current Five Year Strategic Plan that was introduced in 2012. Growth of the VULS, both in terms of membership numbers and the development of new programs, continued throughout the year, which was excellent to see. However, limits in staff resources continued to require a slow and steady approach to this growth. Notwithstanding our growing pains, it is the pleasure of the board to report that the VULS continues to be fiscally healthy and a leader in Ultimate leagues across Canada. The VULS expects continued growth for the sport of Ultimate in Vancouver and British Columbia in future years, particularly in the area of youth, and we expect to be at the forefront of facilitating and managing that growth in the interests of our members.

Strategic Plan Update

The VULS Five Year Strategic Plan came into effect in 2012, introducing tangible goals supported by 4 critical success factors to help guide operation of the VULS from 2012 to 2016. The 4 critical success factors in the Strategic Plan are:

- Member Services – programs and services to encourage long term participation in ultimate and membership in the VULS.
- Promotion – attract new and returning players by promoting ultimate and VULS services.
- Spirit – foster a culture of respect, fairness and joy of play for everyone in ultimate.
- Capacity – proactively support ultimate throughout Metro Vancouver.

The Strategic Plan provides operational direction for the VULS until the 2016 operating year. The Plan is reviewed annually by the Board of Directors in order to develop initiatives/programs each operating year and to monitor progress. The use of targeted quantitative metrics and an ongoing gap analysis for each of the 4 critical success factors is used to monitor the progress of the Plan and to determine if we are achieving our goals. The results of the metrics and gap analysis from the previous year are used to focus the limited VULS resources in developing initiatives and programs for the current year to allow the VULS to best achieve the overall goals of the Strategic Plan.

The establishment of the Strategic Plan has motivated the VULS to create better tools to measure and engage our membership. Although there is still one more year remaining in the current Strategic Plan, the indicators to date suggest that the VULS will be close to meeting its five-year goals as indicated in the Strategic Plan Summary document at the end of the 2016 operating year.

See the accompanying Strategic Plan Summary document for an overview of the current Strategic Plan and its progress to date. The VULS Executive Director, Craig Woods, will review the Strategic Plan Summary document to outline the Plan's progress to date. He will also provide details on the initiatives and programs listed above that the VULS undertook in 2015.

As we move towards the end of the current five-year planning period, the VULS, through the Strategic Planning Committee, is reviewing the successes and challenges of its planning strategy. This process will include development of a new Strategic Plan and goals to guide the VULS's operation for a number of years beginning in 2017 that are based on operational challenges and opportunities expected in the next planning period. The process will also include a review of the VULS's current mission statement as well as its vision statement and core values.

Human Resources

The VULS Human Resources Committee worked throughout the year with staff to support the Executive Director and the Board as required. Specifically, the HRC worked with Craig Woods during the process of hiring our League Manager in early 2015, Troe Weston. Our previous League manager shifted roles within the VULS to become its Juniors Coordinator.

I would personally like to thank all of our full and part time staff for their tireless efforts in keeping the VULS running very professionally and I am very proud to have worked with such a dedicated group of people. It takes many people to keep the VULS running smoothly, including our volunteers, part-time coordinators, and full-time staff and the organization would not be what it is without each one of you. I would specifically like to thank the following individuals:

- Craig Woods – Executive Director
- Craig Kulyk – Marketing Manager
- Troe Weston - League Manager
- Will Arlotta – Juniors Coordinator

Awards Ceremony and Hall of Fame

This year, the VULS once again hosted its annual awards banquet on October 17th to honor teams and individuals whose contributions to ultimate and the VULS excelled in 2015. These awards included:

- Team Spirit
- Team Carbon Flip
- Volunteer of the Year winner (Diana Hunter and Cody Hubbard)
- Coach of the Year (Karen Wright and Myles Lu)

- Individual Spirit of the Year winner (Shannon Sief and Jeffery Roy)

As well, the VULS inducted three new members into our Hall of Fame. The inductees for 2014 include Carla Keffer, Steve Oldenburg and Carlo Giuliani.

Professional Ultimate

The VULS formed strategic partnerships with both Vancouver professional ultimate teams, the Vancouver Nighthawks in the MLU (third season) and the Vancouver Riptide in the AUDL (second season). These partnerships provided the VULS cross-promotional opportunities to help raise the profile of ultimate in Vancouver and to support VULS members services. I would like to thank both the Nighthawks and the Riptide for successful partnerships in 2015 and we look forward to 2016.

BC Ultimate Society

The VULS remains committed to a healthy ultimate community throughout the province of British Columbia. Thus, the VULS continues to support BC Ultimate through its annual membership contributions (the VULS is the largest single contributor to the Society), consultation and other assistance as required. The VULS Board would like to congratulate Alex Davis, Bridget Gilbride, Jennifer Kwok and Kat Lee, who were recently elected to a 2-year term on the BC Ultimate Board of Directors.

Board of Directors

I would like to thank the VULS board for their dedicated and hard work over the past year. It has been a pleasure serving on the VULS Board of Directors with such a professional and passionate group of people. The current Board of Directors are listed below:

Rob Adams – Vice President

Terry Yaremchuk – Treasurer

Ben Klein – Secretary (→ Exiting after 1 year)

Alex Chu (→ Exiting after 4 years)

Travis Smith

April Van Ert

In addition to their Board of Director duties, each Board Member also participates on several committees that help guide the operation of the VULS. The committees are listed in the table below:

| COMMITTEE | FUNCTION | MEMBERS |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Human Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports Executive Director as required on staffing issues. • Evaluates Executive Director performance. | Pete McCann (chair), Alex Chu, Ben Klein |
| Governance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures good governance practices are followed. • Supports Board as required. • Maintains VULS By-laws. | Travis Smith (chair), Ben Klein, Olivier Lessard-Fontaine; Rob Adams |
| Strategic Planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops Strategic Plan documents. • Works with Executive Director to set annual metrics and review gap analysis. • Annually reviews and reports progress of the Strategic Plan. | Alex Chu (chair), Travis Smith, Terry Yaremchuk, April Van Ert, Brett Anderson, James Rankin, Craig Woods |
| Youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide guidance to the Executive Director on managing Youth Programs. | Alex Chu (chair), Pete McCann, Travis Smith, Craig Woods |
| Website/IT Systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide guidance to the Executive Director on managing the VUL website/IT system. | Craig Woods (chair), Pete McCann, Rob Adams, April Van Ert |
| Hall Of Fame | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the selection process for inducting new members into the VULS Hall of Fame. | Terry Yaremchuk (chair), Rob Adams, Hall of Famers |

Conclusion

Over the past several years the VULS has done a good job completing tasks with our current board and limited staff resources. I am proud to note that this level of Board and staff commitment continued in 2015, including at the board/committee levels and at the annual planning sessions. The VULS can benefit greatly by engaging and leveraging the enthusiasm of our membership, so if you are interested, please consider volunteering.

The end of this meeting will mark the end of 5 years for me on the Board of the VULS. With the strength of the Board and staff as it stands today, I am comfortable stepping down from my position on the Board as I am confident the VULS is in good hands going forward. I have been proud to work with the Board and staff over the last 5 years and I look forward to a simpler life of just playing ultimate. See all y'all on the field somewhere soon.

Peter McCann – President (➔ Exiting after 5 years)