

McLean Youth Soccer Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 10, 2015

McLean Community Center, Stedman Room

Board Members Present

Mariano Diaz-Bonilla

Richard Irons

Sharon King Donahue

Marc Noë

John Poncy

Matt Richardson

Kirk Robertson

Beth Singer

James Socas

Louise Waxler – Executive Director

MYS Staff Present

Julie Caramanica – Administrator

Gary Evans – Recreation Director

Clyde Watson – Girls Technical Director

John Harkes – Senior Technical Advisor

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the MYS Board of Directors was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chair James Socas.

II. Motion to Approve the June 2015 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 24, 2015 meeting minutes. The motion was approved.

III. Executive Director Updates

The Executive Director Report was sent by e-mail to Board members prior to the meeting. Louise Waxler distributed the current Financial Report to Board members. The designated field account is not yet funded. More funds are forthcoming with spring registration.

The contract with the field maintenance provider expires at the end of the year. An RFP will be requested from various companies.

US Soccer has mandated age groups changes for the 2016 seasonal to be calendar based vs. August 1-July 31. McLean Youth Soccer will comply with the recommended change.

John Harkes was introduced to the Board as Senior Technical Advisor. John's oldest daughter played in McLean and is now at Clemson University; his younger daughter is member of the U16 MYS ECNL team. John will work to help put the right coaches with the right teams on the Boys side and hopes to add new experienced coaches. He will also assist to get placement for players with college teams. He noted that his personal assessment is that McLean is a strong club.

A Fundraising policy was developed for all MYS teams. It was advised that all team fundraising be approved by the Executive Director with funds directly deposited to the MYS account giving donors the ability to use the 501C3 EIN number. Funds will then be distributed to the team generating the income. There was also discussion of possible corporate funding opportunities.

IV. Recreation Report

Rich Irons reported on the recent Recreation Committee meeting. The recreation program has a healthy enrollment. There were challenges in signing recreation coaches, but all 50 vacancies were filled. Gary Evans reported that there are 2200 recreation players this season which is a 10% increase.

Recreation recruitment, retention, and reports are very important. The committee hopes to be more strategic in identifying those that need assistance.

Gary reported that a meeting was held to help those involved with the transition of U12 to U13.

The committee is working to make sure the All Star experience meets the needs of the players and parents involved. The average age of coaches and parents for All Star teams was questioned. It was reported that it varies, some are young, some older and more experienced. It was noted that kits of 2 jerseys and socks will be given to each player participating.

Rich reported that there are plans to develop an indoor winter program. He also noted players are encouraged to also referee and consider coaching.

Rich Irons welcomed Gary Evans as the new Recreation Director. Gary expanded on the new indoor program noting Sport and Health in McLean will be opening an indoor facility. The indoor space will be turf with lines and no walls. They plan to start with 8 to 10 year olds and expand to older age groups after Christmas. Board members agreed an indoor program is a very good concept. It is expected to be positive.

A motion was made and seconded to introduce a winter indoor recreation program on a trial basis. The motion was approved.

Gary reported that staff for the recreation program is hired on a part time basis with as many repeat coaches as possible. The Academy is being conducted at the Spring Hill 2 fields. He noted that Spring Hill 5 is probably better, but Spring Hill 2 is closer to the porta potties. High School players are acting as floaters to help with coaching. Training is being conducted on Saturday mornings with help and learning from professional coaches.

Bill Creswick is working with U8 and U9 age groups. He brings a lot of recreation experience. Vince Morale is another working with Bill.

Gary noted that the Recreation program is within budget. The new Bonzi system is now being used. The Excel summary analysis is well liked.

The Recreation meeting held the prior evening was well attended with nearly 150 attendees, approximately 85% of those involved. Jamil Walker introduced fun activities; Matt Pasquinelli addressed goalkeeping and Dr. Katherine McGill provided a concussion awareness session.

The Committee hopes to create a web site for coaches. Gary noted he will not coach this season in order to focus on program oversight.

Games begin this week. All Star tryouts will be held early. The draft will be very collaborative. It is not intended to be competitive, but to place the players properly.

It was reported that the Committee is very pleased with the field assignments. SFL and U10 age groups are all playing on turf. It is a highlight for the club on how many turf fields are being used.

Gary was asked to come back to the Board with a Recreation curriculum with a strategic plan for age appropriate activities.

V. Travel Report

John Harkes reported that fund raising is critical. It is important to find companies from our community to donate for financial assistance for players and their families. Costs to participate are high and sometimes prohibitive for players and their families.

John suggested McLean look into finding a clubhouse for the club. Louise reported she has spoken to a county official for use of the house at Lewinsville Park. It was agreed that house would be good for short term, but Spring Hill 5 would be a good location to build something for the future. Langley Forks was also suggested as another site for a clubhouse. This would be a good goal for a fund raising opportunity.

Clyde Watson and John Harkes spoke about bringing Washington Spirit players in to work with our girls teams. The Washington Spirit players have contract restrictions, but it is being worked on.

It was asked about whether a US Soccer Academy or an Academy alliance is possible. That it is being discussed, but it is complicated and depends on US Soccer's plans for expansion.

Club alliances were discussed. Clyde reported that the Alliance with Arlington is on hold pending field availability from Arlington.

Goalkeeping training has been initiated. Boys and Girls will be trained separately.

The calendar year age group change is a very important challenge to the club. A meeting with the Technical Staff was held and a statement was drafted for distribution to the membership. It should be noted that the recreational program will also implement these changes.

It is recommended that the U12 age group play 9v9 versus 8v8, but it is not mandated. MYS will comply with league mandates. Age group changes will be in effect for the 2016-2017 seasonal year. Small sided changes will be in effect beginning 2017.

John and Clyde will meet with coaches to determine the best way to proceed in preparing for these changes. It is expected that the transition will go smoothly, but communication is key. It was suggested that a Q&A or FAQ's be prepared with proposed questions to alleviate concerns and will be on the web site.

The tryout process will be relatively the same. Players may try out for two age groups and make their decision which age group is best.

VI. Field Report

Matt Richardson reported that the Police Field is finished and ready for play. Landscaping around the fields should be completed the day following this meeting and lighting should be completed the following week. Ribbon cutting is scheduled for September 19th between 9:15 and 9:30.

It was asked if further funding for field development is complete. A 10 year plan is in place for only maintenance unless something more becomes available.

VII. Travel Committee Report

Marc Noë reported on the progress in league play. Registration shows some growth. The Board discussed some activities to work on.

It was reported that Ken Krieger has left the club and taken a position with DC United. A committee will be formed to assist with the interview process of a Director of Soccer for the club. Louise noted that a restructure may be considered depending on the candidates. It was noted that the Board selects the Executive Director and the Executive Director is responsible for hiring staff.

John Harkes is filling in through December. He will help with structure considerations. If a hire is not made by January 1, John will assist longer in a lessor capacity if needed. The right hire is the priority.

Marc reported the travel program is within budget.

VIII. Conflict of Interest

Sharon King Donohue reminded the directors to complete their Conflict of Interest forms if they haven't already done so. She then reviewed the key fiduciary responsibilities for directors from a corporate governance perspective. These include: overseeing fulfillment of the mission, financial oversight, overseeing management, approval of and monitoring of progress against a strategic plan, succession planning for the Board and asking the right questions (duty of inquiry).

Louise and James were complimented on transparency.

Adidas has provided brand items such as pop up tents and banners for field activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Prepared by Julie Caramanica MYS Administrator

Submitted by Sharon King Donahue MYS Secretary