

## **McLean Youth Soccer Board Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Pulcinella's Restaurant

### Board Members Present

Sharon King Donohue

Rich Irons

Marc Noë

Matt Richardson

Kirk Robertson – by conference call

Beth Singer

James Socas

Louise Waxler – Executive Director

### MYS Staff Present

Julie Caramanica – Administrator – by conference call

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 6:00 pm by Chair James Socas.

#### **II. Motion to Approve the September 2015 Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the September 15, 2015 meeting minutes. It was noted some minor edits will be made. The motion was approved.

#### **III. Executive Director Report**

The Executive Director Report was sent by e-mail to Board members prior to the meeting. Louise Waxler noted the report was comprehensive and in the interest of time, preferred only to go over items needing more explanation. Registration increased in both travel and recreation from Spring to Fall.

Changes in age groups from school year to calendar year were discussed. A mandatory meeting of coaches was held last week to discuss implementation of this change. The birth year will take effect for fall of 2016 and will be implemented during tryouts. This will be covered in more detail in the Technical Director report.

Louise reported on player injury prevention. Some soccer lawsuits on heading have resulted in US Soccer no longer allowing heading at U10 and younger age groups, but US Soccer has provided no guidance yet for its member clubs.

At a recent injury prevention workshop sponsored by MYS, 5 topics were covered by different doctors specializing in the different areas. The doctor speaking on concussions noted that most injuries are not from heading, but from collision. However, we do not want to be premature in making conclusions without more study. MYS is being proactive.

MYS has submitted an application with US Soccer for a U12 Academy. Given the potential for a U12 Academy, MYS is also in discussions with DC United in order to create a pathway for Academy play for the older age groups. US Soccer has indicated that it is not likely to grant any new charters for Academy programs, so players would have to move to other Academy programs if they advance.

The Board discussed the need for player pathways and it was agreed that just having U12 Academy is not enough without U13 and U14 Academy programs. The U12 Academy program if granted would apply to 24 players. Once we hear from US Soccer, MYS will have to decide whether to accept.

Louise discussed the current Financial Report with Board members. She noted cash on hand is to cover expenses through the end of the seasonal year. A close review of the budget is ongoing. The only income expected for the rest of the seasonal year is Spring recreation fees. The Field Development account is now depleted for this year as was anticipated with the completion of the Police Field. All field work was done within budget.

Louise reported on the progress of selecting a Director of Soccer. This is a high level position and a few candidates have been vetted but MYS is going to take time to find the right candidate. The Board expressed its appreciation to the staff who have taken on additional responsibilities and for all the good work they are doing.

#### **IV. Recreation Report**

Louise reported that, according to the summit she attended, many clubs are interpreting the age group change as applying only to travel players. Recreation programs prefer to remain with the current age groups using school year calendar unless mandated by VYSA to change to calendar year. When asked it was noted that SFL is a rec only league. It is not certain, but it appears that recreation programs may be able to keep age groups on the school year calendar. MYS will await further direction from US Soccer, VYS and SFL before making a final decision on whether to implement the age group change at the Recreation level.

#### **V. Fields Report**

Matt Richardson reported three items regarding fields.

- To date, feedback from those using Police Field has been very positive. No negative feedback about lights has been received from any neighbors. Information has been prepared to be presented to Supervisor Foust's office concerning how beneficial it would be to be able to install lights at SH5. This information will be shared with his office in early 2016.

Matt updated the Board on discussions with FCPA concerning the proposal to install turf at SH4. FCPA has produced a plan showing 60 yd x 40 yd field suitable for play by our younger age groups. The cost of the field is budgeted by FCPA at about \$300,000 and MYS' contribution to

the field would be \$100,000. The Board expressed its support for this project pending the availability of funds. Before making a final commitment regarding this field, the MYS finance team will review the budget to determine if funds are available to support this project.

## **VI. Travel Report**

Clyde Watson reported that all travel teams will move to the birth year starting for the playing season beginning in fall of 2016. To begin implementation, the club will hold a series of birth year scrimmages in February to allow coaches to assess what the birth year teams might look like and to give players a chance to get to know the new players they might play with. All players will initially try out with the age appropriate team and then the coaches can make the decision as to whether any player should play up based on skill and development. MYS is still waiting for additional guidance from several of the leagues as to whether as to how the older teams will be organized in the league. For example, ECNL has announced that the current U17 and U18 age groups will be combined. It is uncertain now as to whether the other league will follow suite.

Following the age group scrimmages, the club will determine coaching assignments. This means that coaching assignments will be available earlier this year and letters of intent will be offered to coaches in the spring.

It was asked if an FAQ regarding the changes in age groups is being prepared. The Technical staff responded they are working on it, but it cannot be completed until clarification is made by US Soccer. Communications may go out sometime mid-January, but they hope to get something basic out prior to that. It is important that all communication is accurate, not rushed. Other clubs noted they are being cautious on what is being communicated to their communities as well.

## **VII. Development and Outreach Report**

Beth Singer reported that the scholarship committee has met several times and is working on a proposal to bring to the Board to expand the availability of scholarship funds beyond registration fees and to generate more fundraising opportunities for the club.

This year 30 recreation scholarships were given. Funds were provided for all but 7 players that did not qualify.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Prepared by Julie Caramanica MYS Administrator

Submitted by Sharon King Donohue MYS Secretary