

**McLean Youth Soccer
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2018**

Members present:

Kirk Robertson
Susan Mrachek
Michelle Reing
James Socas
Bryan Judd

Members present via teleconference:

Michael Dalakis
Whitney Bergendahl

Members not present:

Michael Kunz
Laura Mattis
Brian Luwis

Staff Present:

Louise Waxler, Executive Director
Keith Tabatznik, Director of Soccer
Haytham Mansur, Recreation Program Director
Kelly Key, Director of Finance
Marcia Sikes, Travel and Communications Administrator

Meeting convened at 7:06 pm by Chair Kirk Robertson.

Motion: To Approve the September 11, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes. Motion approved.

Executive Director Report-Louise Waxler

Highlights of the report that were discussed:

- Need-based Financial Aid-Awards for 2018-2019 thus far are \$74,530 for travel (52 players) and \$4087.50 for recreation (25 players). For travel players aid is calculated using a sliding/incremental scale so lower the income the higher the reward. The club is also assisting financial aid players with team fees. For recreation players aid is either awarded at 100% or denied. The finance committee will review aid and policies for the ECNL program and the use of restricted funds.
- Staffing-New staffing has been finalized and transitions are in progress. Marcia Sikes will transition from Assistant Administrator into the role of Travel and Communications Administrator and Jane Scott-Jones will continue as SFL rep and also take on the role of Recreation and Programs Administrator. Melissa Riemer will stay on as Fields Manager.

- Community Service-MYS teams participated in a new fundraiser this year and raised \$1200 for the Max Cure Foundation in support of childhood cancer. And for a third year MYS raised money (\$850) for Breast Cancer awareness/support. MYS partnered with Leidos for a new Environment Sustainability project in October at the Spring Hill fields where several MYS families assisted cleaning up fields, parking lots and surrounding areas. MYS participated for a second year in the Haycock Elementary School scarecrow contest.

Director of Finance Report-Kelly Key

- Provided review of operating cash forecast.
- Reported on the status of club bank accounts and the interest rate being earned on each.
- Reported on the status of the Fields Development and Maintenance Fund and indicated that the figures associated with the fund would soon be updated..
- Finance Trends- FY2019 draft actuals are ahead of budget as a result of stronger than expected revenue.
- Finance Initiatives – additional work is needed to complete the re-organization of travel team accounts that was started in FY2018, including improving the payment portal and login process. The finance committee will provide oversight and advice in the effort.

Director of Soccer Report-Keith Tabatznik

Highlights of report discussed:

- U8 Juniors Program- Please with the new training program with Coerver. The Saturday competition format was adjusted, including active in-game coaching for one half and increasing from four to five sided, to help in the transition to seven-sided play at the next level.
- Barcelona Coach Education Trip- Six MYS coaches will take part in this trip in February via WorldStrides along with staff from Potomac Soccer and DCST.
- CCL-Teams have participated in league games as well as the CCL Championship Adidas Cup and CCL Next Gen Scrimmage Fest. In February, teams will compete in the CCL College Showcases in Richmond area. Fall leagues produced good standings and most CCLII teams seem to be playing at the proper level of competition. It is hoped that one CCLII team can be moved to an open CCLI spot to achieve a better competitive alignment. MYS has three teams now filling spots for other clubs in CCLI and this seems to be going well. Several CCL players are dual-rostered with ECNL teams to provide them exposure to higher level play.
- ECNL Girls- Teams continue to perform very well with many former players returning.
- ECNL Boys- The transition to this new league has presented operational challenges that staff is working hard to address. The league has provided a uniformly higher level of competition but bad weather during the fall resulted in a number of game cancellations. Cross-over and make-up games will be added in the winter and spring to help solve this “dead time” issue. Staff believes that the December ECNL Showcase in Florida will provide a valuable player experience and national platform for all MYS boys teams.

- NCSL- Fall season variety of results and new division placements for Spring will be requested for some teams who want to move either up or down. Five teams finished in first, second or third place.
- Miscellaneous- College Info Session had 30-50 in attendance and the College Coaches Panel will be scheduled in the Spring. We had two State Cup winners and two Presidents Cup finalists.
- Player Evaluations - All MYS players will receive a written evaluation. Coach to player evaluations are underway with U9-U12 players and parents to receive written and verbal evaluations. U9-U12 will also have in-person feedback with players and parents. U13-U19 – The coach must check with each player to ensure their understanding of the evaluation and offer a one-on-one meeting if requested. Evaluations are monitored by AGD's and Keith to ensure all players receive one.

Recreation Director Report-Haytham Mansur

- Fall Season- Learned a lot about the scope of the program during first fall on the job and collected information to improve it by going field to field, meeting parents and coaches and monitoring teams. Improving the education and support of our volunteer coaches is a priority going forward.
- U8 (Non-Juniors) Program- A success with coaches asking for even more assistance. Working on a two year plan to streamline the program.
- All-Stars Program- Had a rocky start but ended in good shape. Going forward planning should start earlier and we will seek to implement the recommendations of players from coaches, including adding “practice players” to each team. Leidos donations paid for new team jerseys for each player with MYS logo.
- Spring Season- One goal is to prepare our U8s for the U9 game with rules, PK boxes, larger-sided games and bigger fields. Plan to schedule a Spring Opening Day Festival similar to the fall event one week before season starts.
- SFL Winter Training- Coaches suggested offering winter training options for SFL players so we are offering a seven week outdoor training program at Police Field to be run by Haytham with U12-14 and U15-17 age groupings.
- Miscellaneous- Adequate field space has been an issue due to rain. For the spring/next fall we need to look at process of efficient allocation of more turf fields for recreation teams. Will be working with certain coaches to improve their temperament and monitoring their progress.

Recreation Committee Report, Susan Mrachek, Chair

- Committee members Mrachek, Bergendahl and Mattis are working with three non-board club members who are recreation coaches with significant club experience, and with club staff.
- Kickoff meeting planned for parent/coach listening sessions in the fall and spring with downtime in winter to be used as a time to communicate with coaches for feedback and concerns. Determined that they need to gather more feedback from coaches as well.
- Need for more turf slots for recreation practices.

- Coaches agree on the need for guidelines for transitioning players from U8 to U9. Need to work on best practices, sharing how to structure practice sessions.
- The committee considered metrics for success of and goals for the recreation program that included player retention, program improvement, whether to grow, team roster sizes, registration timing, and field space. Also discussed methods for gathering more parent feedback on the program.
- The board agreed in principal that a staff should set a goal to maintain current recreation player participation levels in the fall 2019 season.
- The committee noted that there is a renewed buzz surrounding the recreation program with the addition of Haytham and the committee.

Travel Committee Report, Michele Reing and Michael Kunz (on behalf of Chair, Brian Luwis)

- Committee has met with staff to discuss a slate of travel program policy matters, including player evaluation and coaching standards and will work toward bringing consensus policy recommendations to the board for consideration.

Field Committee Report, James Socas

- Reviewed field needs and status of interactions with Fairfax County regarding field use and expansion and plans for future engagement with the County

Other Business:

- A draft whistleblower protection policy was presented and discussed. A vote to approve was postponed in order to address board member suggestions.
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Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Minutes submitted by Marcia Sikes, MYS Travel and Communication Administrator

Minutes approved by Laura Mattis, MYS Vice Chair