

Sunnyvale Alliance Soccer Club

Board Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2008

The meeting was held at Round Table Pizza at Loeman's Shopping Center in Sunnyvale, CA at 7:30 pm.

Board Members present were Masood Mokhtary, Bob Carpenter, Susan Lundberg, Mark Fellows, Susan Grabau, Deanne Phillips, Kat Caturegli and Sandra Todd. Cyrus Fakhari and George Tharakan attended as guests. Board Members absent were Chris Barnes, Cheryl Ching, Janine Dryden and Chuck Kluz

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm by President Masood Mokhtary. Mr. Mokhtary welcomed everyone and asked that all current board members and guests introduce themselves.

Mr. Mokhtary introduced Cyrus Fakhari from Lawn Therapists. Mr. Fakhari is performing the field renovation at SSC. He noted that it would be better for the fields and for the club if we use hydro seed instead of laying sod on the fields. For a little less money, we can renovate 5.5 acres with the seed, instead of the planned 3.5 with sod (see attached). The additional area will cover the borders around the fields and will create a more even and uniform field area. There has been a problem with weeds, especially around the borders, and this will allow him to remove all the current weeds and replace with grass. The seeded grass will establish stronger roots and be better able to prevent the spread of weeds into the renovated area. Mr. Fakhari discussed the different types of sod and grass mixes available, as well as the previous solutions to the continual growth of weeds. He did note that the renovation area would need to be closed for at least three months, and that the seeding would not occur until the spring. Therefore, the club would need to count on having only half of SSC available until August. Mr. Mokhtary noted that he was working with the Sunnyvale SMART station to procure a donation of compost and the necessary transportation to the fields.

Mr. Mokhtary then introduced George Tharakan. Mr. Tharakan attended the board meeting to inform the board of grant opportunities available through Wells Fargo Bank. He stated that the Bank offers grants to not-for-profit organizations, with an emphasis on those organizations that reach out to the Hispanic community. He further explained that any grants or funding from Wells Fargo would be a long term association, with larger financial support than a simple corporate grant or one-time donation. Mrs. Lundberg will follow up with Wells Fargo, where SASC has a banking relationship, and work with Mrs. Caturegli on any grant application or further association.

Mr. Mokhtary also noted that he was talking to Toyota of Sunnyvale, who seem to support local youth sports. Mrs. Lundberg stated that she had received a request from one of the coaches for a letter requesting a donation for the club from his employer. Together, and in their various capacities, Mr. Mokhtary, Mrs. Caturegli and Mrs. Lundberg will follow up on possible sponsors and donation leads.

The board reviewed the minutes from the January 8th Board meeting. Mr. Carpenter moved to approve the minutes as presented, Mrs. Todd seconded the motion, and the vote passed unanimously. Mrs. Lundberg then distributed an updated version of the November 2007 AGM minutes and asked that all board members review those minutes and respond to her as soon as possible with any discrepancies or omissions. Those AGM minutes will be approved at the November 2008 meeting.

Mr. Carpenter reported on the comp tryouts for this winter. All tryouts were completed successfully, all participants had been contacted, and many of the players had been placed on competitive teams. All teams who had openings were able to fill their teams. There is potential for more comp teams, however there seems to be a coaching shortage. Various board members are working with both the rec and comp coaches to ensure that all players who wish to, and qualify, are able to play on competitive teams. Mr. Mokhtary noted that there are three U14G division 3 teams this spring. One of those teams will move to division 1 in the fall, and there may be some consolidation of teams.

There was discussion about a new team that wanted to be approved for division 3 play in the spring. Jeff Kordes is forming a U18B team. He also manages a U16B division 3 team in SASC. It was noted that the other U18B Div 3 team, the Arsenal 89, have disbanded. Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Kluz have been working with Mr. Kordes to find players and other teams for them to play against. There was some discussion about moving up a U16 team from the recreational league, as well as other various rec coaches or teams to the competitive level. Mr. Carpenter moved to approve the addition of Jeff Kordes as a comp coach for the spring with a U18B team, Mrs. Lundberg seconded, and the vote passed unanimously.

Mrs. Grabau opened a discussion regarding field availability, and the difficulty in competing in the City of Sunnyvale with baseball and lacrosse in the spring season. SASC needs to work on petitioning the City for more field space, especially in the spring, and to get the City interested in, and supportive of, SASC. Mrs. Grabau feels that SASC should work with the city on their long term planning for fields and communicate our anticipated needs in order to be able to accommodate the club's increasing size and field requirements. Mr. Mokhtary stated that he would like to meet with the City, together with several Board members, in order to communicate our concerns and need for field availability.

Registration is in process for the spring season. The walk in recreational league registrations sessions are complete for the spring, however the club will accept mail in registrations until the end of February, based on space availability. As of this date, there are approximately 900 players registered in the rec league, and that the process is going smoothly. Mrs. Phillips reported that registration for the comp teams has begun, and will close March 4th. It is anticipated that there will be 40-41 competitive teams in the spring season.

There were several items noted for the rec league. There will be a rec coaches meeting on March 13th. Mrs. Todd noted that as they prepare to order rec uniforms she will investigate the available alternatives and choose a vendor based on price and satisfactory customer service. She also noted that she will be adding a rec equipment coordinator to help make sure all the teams are fully equipped.

Mrs. Caturegli reported on Fundraising. Although she has just accepted the Fundraising Director position, Mrs. Caturegli talked about many ideas for moving the current shirt, sweatshirt and patch inventory, as well as new ideas that would benefit the club without any initial cash outlays. She supported the idea of selling club shirts at registration events and coaches meetings. She will be working with Mrs. Lundberg and Mr. Mokhtary on various fundraising and donation possibilities.

Mr. Carpenter reported to the board the discussions of the most recent Executive Committee meeting. He noted that the Committee agreed on a new field leasing rate schedule, which is somewhat more simplified and continues to provide a discounted rate for SASC coaches. He will work with any potential leasers who wish to have SSC field time during the renovation time at SSC. He also reiterated the need for the club to obtain multiple bids, or price checks on club expenses, as well as fully executed contracts from all club vendors and contractors.

Mr. Carpenter stated that the Foothill Youth Soccer League (the parent league to SASC) will hold its Annual General Meeting on February 27th, and that it would be beneficial for the SASC Board members to attend, as well as our coaches.

There was a discussion regarding open positions on the Board, and Mr. Carpenter noted that he was following up on a candidate for Volunteer Coordinator, as well as someone for Publicity (which is now a non-Board position).

Mr. Carpenter then moved to approve Mr. Tharakan as the Tournament Coordinator for SASC. Mrs. Lundberg seconded, and the vote passed unanimously.

Mr. Mokhtary initiated a discussion regarding potential issues with team or coaches who do not abide by the SASC or PCA culture. He reminded all Board members that they have a responsibility to highlight any problems to the appropriate Board member, as well as to approach a coach or parent when they witness a problem, introduce themselves, and remind the individual of what behavior is acceptable. He stated that the board would need to put the coach, manager, parent, or team on notice verbally, follow up with an official notice from the Board, as well as potential consequences. There is a need for consistent documentation and action in all cases.

It was noted that Chuck Kluz, Competitive Director would hold a comp coaches meeting in March. Mrs. Phillips has already distributed information that the coaches need in order to register their teams for the spring season.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 10th at 7:30 pm. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Lundberg,
Treasurer – acting Recording Secretary