

# Sunnyvale Alliance Soccer Club

## Board Meeting Minutes

### March 17, 2008

The meeting was held at Round Table Pizza at on El Camino Real in Mountain View, CA at 7:30 pm.

Board Members present were Masood Mokhtary, Bob Carpenter, Susan Lundberg, Mark Fellows, Susan Grabau, Janine Dryden, George Tharakan, Chris Barnes, Cheryl Ching (retiring), John Ruckstuhl (new volunteer coordinator), Chuck Kluz, Kat Caturegli and Sandra Todd. Andrew Ransom attended as a guest. Deanne Phillips was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm by President Masood Mokhtary. Mr. Mokhtary welcomed everyone. He, together with the board, congratulated Mr. Ransom on the birth on his son. The board reviewed the minutes from the February 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and unanimously agreed to accept them as presented.

Mr. Carpenter introduced John Ruckstuhl as the newly approved Volunteer Coordinator. Mr. Russell has a daughter that plays on the Roadrunners 95. Mrs. Ching noted that although she was stepping down from the Volunteer Coordinator role, she would retain responsibility for Fun Day for 2008 and work together with Mr. Ruckstuhl and Mrs. Caturegli to ensure its success. Mr. Mokhtary thanked her for her dedication and many years of hard work at SASC.

Mr. Mokhtary reported on the meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> with the City of Sunnyvale. Many of the different sports organizations attended and discussed their hopes for city field space. The City realizes that most of their parks and recreational areas are outdated and in need of renovation, and that both the population and the requirement for space has increased. The City has hired consultants to talk to the different groups, collect the facts, determine what is lacking, and to provide a recommendation to the City as to how they should act. There were no promises to any groups, but they communicated the desire to do what is best for all residents of the City. Mr. Mokhtary noted that it was interesting to hear from the other groups that are asking for space; that they have good programs and valid needs, and that we need to find a balance for everyone.

The field renovation at SSC continues, with sand being delivered next week, and then compost after that. Mr. Mokhtary continues to work with the Sunnyvale SMART station to try to obtain discounted or donated compost for the fields. There is currently a need to install higher netting or fencing between the open field area and the renovation area to prevent balls being kicked into the renovation area and players running on newly seeded land. Mr. Mokhtary will continue to be the contact person for Lawn Therapist, to work with him and see that the needs of the renovation project are met.

Mr. Carpenter then reported on the continuing need for more key volunteers, including board member positions. The Secretary position is still open and needs to be filled as soon as possible. We are in need of a new Referee Coordinator, although Mr. Fellows

continues to fill that role until a replacement can be found. Mr. Fellows and Mr. Carpenter are working on splitting the Referee Coordinator position into two roles, which might be easier to fill. The publicity coordinator job is also open. Although that role is not a board position, it is a key position, and important to the success of the club. Mr. Carpenter noted that we need to look to both rec and comp parents to fill all positions.

Rec registration is pretty much finalized. Mrs. Dryden noted that there are approximately 890 players on 88 teams, which is the lowest player count in a couple of years. She believes that many of the younger players have moved over to the new comp teams. All teams are formed, coaches are in place, and the field space is sufficient for the rec games and practices. Mrs. Todd reported on the rec coaches' meeting and shared some of the handouts from that meeting. She also noted that the first coaches' training, run by Andrew Ransome, was the previous Saturday and was well attended and very beneficial for the coaches. Mr. Mokhtary noted for the board that the feedback from the coaches' meeting and training session was very positive and thanked Mrs. Todd for her thoughtfulness, organization and hard work to ensure the success of the rec program again this season.

Mr. Kluz reported that Mrs. Phillips was finalizing the comp team registration. There will be 38 teams this spring. Mr. Kluz will run a comp coaches' meeting next week to prepare for the season and review fields, club guidelines and coach and team expectations within the club. Mr. Kluz noted that the CPP training will begin on April 19<sup>th</sup>, so as to be able to complete eight weeks of training before summer. The players participating in this program will be considered for comp teams for the fall of 2008.

Mr. Kluz also noted that District 2 had asked for a \$40 per player (both rec & comp) contribution to the soccer complex in Morgan Hill. SASC has not paid this amount previously, partly because our rec players do not play on those fields. He will continue to monitor the situation and discussions and keep the board informed.

There was a discussion regarding problems with coaches who do not behave within the guidelines of SASC. There have been several instances when coaches have received red cards, as well as documented conflicts at tournaments where SASC coaches and players have behaved inappropriately. Everyone agreed that as a club, and especially with in the board members, we need to address this issue, keep watching at games and tournaments for violations and other concerns. Mr. Mokhtary asked that all board members step up and speak to a coach immediately if they witness a problem. All issues should then be documented and reported to Mr. Mokhtary, Mr. Kluz, and Mr. Carpenter, who will work with the coach or team in question. There was agreement that there must be actions and consequences in order to obtain results. Mr. Mokhtary is working on a Disciplinary Action Policy and will present it to the board.

There was an issue at a D2 tournament where several U12G CYSA player passes disappeared. These passes did not contain the players' personal information. However, subsequently, parents were concerned that the girls' D2 player passes do have photos and personal information, including addresses, for the players. It was agreed that going forward the players' addresses and phone numbers could be blacked out prior to lamination so as to protect that personal information.

It was noted that the field space for the comp games will be tight this spring. There are 28 U12-U18 teams that will be playing on full size fields this spring. The first home game at SSC will be on March 22, but we need to wait for the full schedule from D2 before completing the spring comp game schedule for the fields.

Mr. Fellows discussed the SASC requirement that each comp team supply five adult referees. This is currently not being tracked, and the concern is that in order to accurately monitor the requirement we would need an additional volunteer just to review compliance. He noted that since the SASC and DeAnza referee pools were combined that there have been fewer problems in filling the referee spots. It was agreed that non-adult referees ages 14 and older would meet the requirement for adult referees if they were able to referee competitive games and work as center refs. Mr. Fellows noted that he would also be including the MVLA referees and games into our referee system in the spring, which should also increase referee availability. He is working on a direct deposit system for the referee payments, which will be beneficial to the referees and considerably reduce the accounting and administrative burden on SASC for referee payments.

Mr. Fellows stated that there is a referee class at the end of March which has been filled.

Mr. Barnes reported on the equipment situation for spring. He will have the tubes and goals in place at the rec fields by this Friday. We need two caretakers for Columbia, Cherry Chase and Nimitz. He wants to credit teams with twenty hours of work credit for caretaking, or with thirty hours for both initial layout and striping the field for the season.

Mrs. Caturegli reported that she is working on various grants that will be filed this spring and summer. She will submit a letter of intent to the 100 Women Foundation by the end of the month; that grant can be \$10,000. She also wants to investigate companies that match donations from their employees – we would like to publish a list of participating companies and encourage members to donate funds and receiving the matching donations for our scholarship program. Mr. Mokhtary asked if a goal of \$10,000-12,000 was obtainable. He would like us to be more aggressive in fundraising, especially with the argument that our players are no longer being supported by the City.

There was some discussion about the possibility of online donation payments through credit cards and pay pal. Mrs. Lundberg will investigate various alternatives and work with Mrs. Caturegli.

Mr. Tharakan discussed plans for a U11 tournament on August 9 and 10 on the fields at SSC. He is considering expanding the age groups to include U12 and U13, depending on what other tournaments or team activities are scheduled for that time. He plans to only include SASC teams and will need two fields for this tournament.

The board then reviewed the results of various meetings and discussions regarding the Les Petite Blues ("LPB") rec teams (currently 8 teams). Mr. Mokhtary reported that he, Mr. Carpenter and Mrs. Todd met with leaders from LPB to review their group and their activities. LPB is a very organized group of French parents who have created a series of teams to play rec soccer at SASC. They have been responsive to the SASC requests and

have done all that we have asked, as well as offering to be more involved and to contribute more volunteer time. There is concern about additional funds that they collect from their players; however it has been determined that these funds solely provide gifts for the players and to host some coaches' training meetings. No one in the group is paid for services or is benefiting financially from the activities. All players are registered directly with SASC at the walk in registrations and pay the same registration fee as all other rec players.

There was ongoing discussion regarding the growth of LPB and its affect on the SASC structure. Mr. Kluz is concerned about a sub group that might detract from a cohesive SASC club culture, and that could be growing and developing without oversight from SASC. There were questions regarding the residency requirements for the group, however, we do not have residency requirements in place for any other part of the club, so at this point we will not pursue that. Mr. Mokhtary stated that he, and the other board members directly involved with LPB, are comfortable with the current situation. He stated that we should continue to review their activities and growth and determine how we could best include them in successful manner in SASC.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 14th at 7:30 pm. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Lundberg,  
Treasurer – acting Recording Secretary