

Sunnyvale Alliance Soccer Club (SASC)

Board Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2008

The meeting was held at the De Anza Park building in Sunnyvale, CA.

The board members present were Masood Mokhtary, Janine Dryden, Deanne Phillips, Bob Carpenter, John Ruckstuhl, George Tharakan, Kat Caturegli, Sandra Todd, Julie Banks, Susan Grabau, Chuck Kluz,, and Mark Shustock (12 members, 10 voting). Susan Lundberg, Chris Barnes and Mark Fellows were not in attendance. Andrew Ransome attended the meeting as an invited guest. Tibor Polgar attended the meeting as an invited guest and during the course of the session was voted onto the board.

The meeting was called to order at 7:45pm by Masood Mokhtary (President). Mr. Mokhtary welcomed the group. As the first matter of business, the board reviewed the minutes from the July 14th meeting and unanimously agreed to accept them as presented (10 ayes, 0 nays). It should be noted that there were several immaterial inaccuracies highlighted in the minutes, notably that Deanne Phillips was present at the July meeting and Julie Banks was not.

As the second matter of business, the board unanimously moved to accept the resignation of Mark Fellows as Referee Director. Bob Carpenter (Vice President) informed the board that he had received Mr. Fellows resignation from the position within the last month. Mr. Carpenter then introduced Tibor Polgar (guest) as a potential candidate to fill the important position. Mr. Polgar, an active SASC competitive coach, was warmly greeted by the members in attendance. Mr. Polgar and Mr. Ransome were then asked to leave the meeting - as a "closed session" is required for new member voting. After they departed, Sandra Todd raised a motion to accept Mr. Polgar as the new Referee Director. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carpenter and passed unanimously (10 ayes, 0 nays). Mr. Polgar and Mr. Ransome were then allowed to rejoin the meeting and Mr. Polgar was notified that he had been accepted.

The next matter discussed was the Sunnyvale Soccer Complex (SSC) playing field. Mr. Mokhtary reported that the new field was in "good condition" except for several troublesome areas where irrigation problems persisted. Mr. Mokhtarty tendered a strong recommendation that no games be allowed on the new field during the first month of the fall season (September). He also asserted it would be prudent to not allow practices on the new field for the entire fall season (September through November). He stated that exceptions could be made for (younger) players in the U9 and U10 age groups, but vigorous practices by older players would likely damage the new grass before it could fully mature and prosper.

Mr. Carpenter informed the group he has been continuing his effort to find a suitable professional contractor to handle routine maintenance at the SSC. He had, in the last month, received a quote from Cyrus Faktari, the contractor who has been on site handling much of the new field work. Mr. Carpenter stated he was also pursuing quotes from at least two other qualified vendors. An update would follow at the September meeting.

Mr. Carpenter then led the board in a discussion related to a persistent and troublesome problem at the SSC: pets on the field. Pets are prohibited from using the field (private property leased by the SASC from the City of Sunnyvale). Signs stating such have been posted around the complex, but local residents persist in bringing their animals for physical (and constitutional) work-outs. The board discussed options for dealing with the situation including larger, more prominent signs and also enforcement of the rule by calling the police or local code enforcement officers to write on-the-spot citations. The group reached consensus that pet owners violating the rule should be politely but firmly confronted and immediately asked to leave the field. If the pet owners failed to comply, the authorities should be called.

The next matter brought before the board was an update from Mr. Mokhtary and Mr. Carpenter on the recent SASC Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee (EC) to the SSC consists of Mr. Mokhtary, Mr. Carpenter, Susan Lundberg (Treasurer) and Deanne Phillips (Competitive Registrar). In the last month the EC had held a meeting and discussed the following club matters: upcoming open board member positions, the SSC field, contracts with key vendors, the relationship with the San Jose Earthquakes professional soccer team, referee issues, team uniforms and coaches' attire, and legal / tax matters.

Moving to the next topic, Chuck Kluz (Competitive Director) reminded the group that the mandatory competitive coaches' meeting was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, August 26th. He asked respective members of the board who manage functions related to competitive play to attend the meeting and assist with the presentation. Lastly, Mr. Kluz pointed out that he had completed a draft document for handout at the meeting and was in the process of soliciting input for edits and changes.

The next topic discussed was the new photographer / Fun Day matter. During the two previous meetings it had been resolved that Sandra Todd (Recreational Director) would make best efforts to find a volunteer to assist with hiring a qualified photographer for the fall season's Fun Day. Ms. Todd previously reported that she had found a volunteer to assist with gathering and reviewing proposals. Ms. Todd reported during the current meeting that the volunteer had spoken to several photographers but the project was far from complete and was, in fact, behind schedule. Several board members then questioned the most suitable date for the event, considering that the vendor selection process was behind schedule. The matter was discussed on the floor and it was decided that the date should be moved

back from September 21st (previous 1st choice) to October 12th (previous 2nd choice).

Ms. Todd reminded the group of the importance of the new vendor selection, as the club stood to save a significant amount of money in the process. The existing / exiting photographer had charged the club close to \$9K for their work last year. The new vendor was likely to have a fee of close to zero, as they would consider the fees paid by the players and teams for photo packages as their sole profit opportunity / motive. Lastly, Ms. Todd agreed to update the board with further developments at the September meeting.

The next matter discussed was roles and responsibilities at the SSC when the field was being leased by outside parties for tournaments or being used by SASC teams for hosted tournaments and events. After initial debate on the floor, Deanne Phillips volunteered to form a subcommittee to prepare a draft document that would detail sensible guidelines. Sandra Todd and Kat Caterugli (Fundraising Director) volunteered to join the subcommittee and assist. Ms. Phillips made it clear that the document would include recommendations for how to handle fundraising from concessions. Several possible alternatives for handling concessions were vigorously discussed by the group. Ms. Phillips agreed to present the draft document to the board for review (and vote) at the earliest possible date, likely the September or October meetings.

Chuck Kluz then took the floor and notified the group that the E level coach training scheduled for August had been postponed due to poor participant registration. He informed the group that the course would be rescheduled for a later date when enrollment had increased. He then stated that the F level training scheduled for August 22nd and 23rd was proceeding as planned, as enrollment had been satisfactory (12+ on the current attendee list).

As the next matter of business, Bob Carpenter informed the board that the name of the club needed to be changed with the State of California - where the club is registered as a corporation (CA legal entity). When the organization's name was changed to Sunnyvale Alliance Soccer Club, the filing was not made with the State of California. At this time, the SASC Board of Directors needed to formally ratify the name change (to SASC) and the name had to be registered (via legal document submission) with the California Secretary of State. Mr. Carpenter brought a motion to ratify the name change as noted in the SASC Constitution to Sunnyvale Alliance Soccer Club and to approve the registration as such with the State of California. The motion was seconded by Sandra Todd and unanimously approved. Mr. Mokhtary, Mr. Carpenter and Mark Shustock (Secretary) reviewed and executed the Certificate of Amendment at the conclusion of the meeting. Mrs. Lundberg will file the Certificate of Amendment to the Constitution with the Secretary of State so that the name of the corporation would be consistent on all federal and state tax and legal documents.

The board then heard “round-table” updates from officers. Janine Dryden (Recreational Registrar) took the floor and stated that 1,162 recreational players had registered for the fall season, comprising 119 teams. Deanne Phillips then stated that approximately 600 competitive players had registered on 41 different teams. Ms. Dryden and Ms. Phillips were lauded by Mr. Mokhtary and other members of the board for their outstanding efforts in successfully completing the demanding administrative work for fall registration.

Tibor Polgar then addressed the group for the first time as Referee Director, a voting position on the board. He asserted that one of his first objectives would be the establishment of a meaningful and effective mentorship program to assist with professional development among new and existing referees. He stated that some capital expenditure would be required but that, in his opinion, the return on investment would justify the cost. He closed by stating he would address the topic more fully at the September meeting.

Julie Banks (Field Coordinator – Practices) addressed the group and committed to making best efforts to finish the draft Field Allocation Policy for review (and subsequent vote) by the board. She related that she would attempt to complete the document before the September meeting. The document would outline how the club made decisions allocating timeslots and fields to competitive teams for practices and games throughout the year.

Andrew Ransome (invited guest) addressed the group and reported that the Gryphon Soccer camps he had conducted during the recent summer months were “by far the most successful” of all the camps he had been involved with during his professional relationship with the SASC. He was particularly impressed with the sportsmanship and integrity demonstrated by the player participants and the overall excellent condition of the SSC field.

Lastly, Mr. Carpenter reminded the group that several SASC board positions would be opening in the coming months. He asked the group to start the process of “getting the word out” to parents of players, particularly parents of players in the competitive program. Mr. Mokhtary reminded everyone that the SASC was a volunteer organization, and that the success of the club largely depended upon the dedication and hard work of those volunteers - at every level.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Mokhtary at 10:15pm.

The next board meeting is planned for Monday, September 8 at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Shustock,
Secretary