

**SUNNYVALE ALLIANCE SOCCER CLUB
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

January 12, 2009

The meeting was held at Woodland Vista Swim and Racquet Club in Los Altos, CA at 7:30 pm.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Carpenter, Susan Lundberg, Beth Johnson, Sandra Todd, Kat Caturegli, Alison Hlady, John Ruckstuhl, George Tharakan, Deanne Philips, Tibor Polgar, Julie Banks, Janine Dryden.

GUESTS PRESENT: Dan Ornelas, Steve Archer, Andrew Ransome, Ron Kundich, Victor Escalera, Jennifer Escalera, Bradley Ishihara and Masood Mokhtary attended as guests.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Chuck Kluz.

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES

President Bob Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. Mr. Carpenter asked that all current board members and guests introduce themselves.

Mr. Carpenter announced that a ballot was conducted for the vacancy in the Vice Presidential board position and that Sandra Todd, who had been nominated for the position, has been elected; the results being 11 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

It was moved by Mrs. Lundberg, seconded by Mrs. Hlady, and carried *“to approve the November board meeting minutes as presented.”*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEW TEAM REQUESTS

Mr. Carpenter announced a list of new competitive teams being formed by Mr. Kluz as a result of recent try-outs. They include a U8G with Cindy Phan as coach, two U8B teams with Neil Hughes as coach, and a U9G team, Mustangs 99, with Dan Ornelas as coach, which will work cooperatively with the existing U9G team. Mrs. Phillips stated the deadline for team formation decisions is January 23.

The board heard a presentation by Victor Escalera requesting approval for a new U11G team. The hand out presented to the board is attached herewith and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Escalera presented the team as an initial feeder team for their age group. The proposed roster consists of players from SASC recreation and competitive teams as well as players from AYSO. Bradley Ishihara, Assistant Coach of Roadrunners97, stated his concern that the defection of several girls from his team. It was clarified by Mr. Escalera that the former Roadrunner players had been searching for other playing opportunities before this new team was formed. Mr. Ishihara has 11 confirmed players which is the minimum being allowed to register as a team. Mr. Escalera stated try-outs were held at a club-sponsored venue and that notice for the try-out was primarily by word-of-mouth.

There was a comparison made to the current situation with the U13 boys' teams. Mr. Archer, Roadrunners 95 Class I, concurred that their team has had similar issues retaining players and filling out their roster.

Mr. Carpenter read the board the following statement prepared by Mr. Kluz and submitted to him via e-mail for it's consideration as a partial solution:

The SASC Competitive Director has permission to contact SASC Class/Division 3 team parents directly on behalf of any EXISTING SASC Class/Division 1 teams, OR in regards to forming a NEW team targeted to become Class/Division 1 team (either directly at U10 as FYSL submitted team, or to form the strongest possible "top" team aiming to win Delgado at other age levels). The contact will be an email, phone call and/or flyer to give notice of openings and/or tryouts, along with contact information for the Class/Division 1 (candidate) team."

Mr. Carpenter concurred that we must expand the communication ability of the Competitive Director by allowing him to reach out to Class 3 players for Class 1 play or to form Delgado teams. Mr. Archer expressed his concern that there is no pipeline to move players up. The Roadrunners are a strong team but may not be able to continue if they cannot get players. A matriculation path will add strength to the Club. Right now, Mr. Archer feels SASC loses players to other clubs, making them feeder teams for stronger clubs. Mr. Carpenter asked Mr. Archer what one thing SASC could do right now to improve the situation. Mr. Archer suggested finding a way for every parent in every age group to know what teams are available and have access to all team philosophies. Mrs. Banks recommended a written philosophy for all teams posted on the website.

Mr. Carpenter identified two issues, one being the big picture of player movement and the other being the immediate need for competitive players. The Club has had an ongoing balance between guiding competitive teams and keeping their hands off. Goals include improving movement from Recreation to Competitive teams, pulling players through rather than pushing them down and identifying development resources for managers and coaches.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

President: Mr. Carpenter met with Marlon Cruz, Recreation Coordinator for the City of Sunnyvale. Mr. Cruz would like SASC to turn-in leased fields as soon as we know they will not be used. SASC needs to review city fields as soon as possible. The spring field list is due at the beginning of February.

Vice President: As Mrs. Todd had just been elected to the position, the former Vice President Mr. Carpenter gave the report. The bid collecting for SSC field maintenance is complete. They received three bids for all-inclusive monthly maintenance. The most expensive bid being from the contractor who installed the field and the middle bid, at approximately \$3,000, from True Green.

Treasurer: Mrs. Lundberg handed out an "SASC Treasurer Report, January 2009" and SASC CY 2008 Player Cost Analysis" which are included herewith and made a part of these minutes. She reviewed the items included in the Treasurer Report and elaborated further on the scholarship program costs for the calendar year 2008. The trend has been that the need for funds is greater than the current contributions. Fundraising and tournament profits will be key factors in the coming year for continuing the program. There was only \$11 remaining undistributed in the fund at the end of 2008.

Mrs. Lundberg then discussed the Player Cost Analysis report. She identified the average seasonal cost for 2008 as \$96.97 per recreational player and \$162.80 for Competitive players. She highlighted the expenditure of \$26,799 for the 169 scholarship players shown on the reverse side of the same report.

SASC received a thank you card from the Chavez family for the donation from the Club and club members of \$4,538 to the Jonathan Chavez Memorial Fund.

Secretary: Ms. Johnson handed out a list of the meeting dates for future board meetings. They are all on Monday except as noted. January 12, February 9, March 9, April 6, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, Thursday November 5 AGM, November 16, December 7(tentative).

Recreation Director: Mrs. Hlady announced the Recreation Coaches meeting has been set up for March 11. It is on the website calendar. Walk-in registration has started; the next walk-in date is January 24th. The banners will need to be taken down by the 31st. Coaches training will be on March 14th, the first day of play is March 28th and the last day of play is June 6th. There will be no play on Memorial Day.

Competitive Director: Mr. Kluz was not present, however Mr. Carpenter reported that Mr. Kluz had communicated to him via e-mail regarding the success of the try-outs and had prepared the written policy (read earlier in the meeting) to modify the authority of the Competitive Director. Coaches' Training Courses to be offered this spring include Level E and D classes, dates to be determined. The F Level course will not be offered by SASC this spring.

Field Coordinator: Mrs. Banks informed the board that field availability would be tight in the spring. However this is based upon the conservative assumption that ½ of SSC will not be available plus the assumption all the requested fields will actually be used. Mrs. Banks will head a committee charged with creating a Volunteer Policy in order to determine eligibility for field space within the club. Mr. Ruckstuhl, Mrs. Todd and Mrs. Caturegli volunteered to make up the committee. In addition, Mrs. Banks noted four SASC teams were in the second round in the Association Cup Play-offs. Those teams are: The Sparks, Spartans, Cyclones, and Lightning96.

Referee Director: Mr. Polgar said that one of the issues he faces is that there is sort of a "cross-pollination" that occurs due to the common pool of referees shared by SASC, MVLA, and DeAnza. He has polled all of the groups from the South Bay; the referee payments are approximately equal. He will hold referee classes in March. Several referees were mentored at the District II Jamboree, which was held at SSC in December. It was a great opportunity for new ARs and for new center referees to get additional training. The feedback was good. Everyone felt they had quality refereeing, there were no complaints and no poor mentoring comments. The total cost of the program was \$560.

Mr. Polgar asked that next year's budget include ARs for U12 recreation games, at least for the first couple of weekends. Mr. Carpenter requested that Mr. Polgar create a proposal to present to the board to handle the U12 recreation AR issue.

Competitive Registrar: Mrs. Phillips said there were 645 competitive players this fall. The registration meeting for coaches created submissions of good quality packets. She has met and coordinated with Foothill and MVLA for this spring and she needs to coordinate dates with Mr. Kluz for spring registration. Most of the changes for spring registration stem from security requirements regarding player information. Bottom line – everyone, including adults, will need new pictures.

Recreation Registrar: Mrs. Dryden stated that 300 players were registered at the January 11th walk-in registration. This was about 30% of the number expected for total spring registration. It could be that some folks are waiting for on-line registration, which has run into technical issues. It may not occur at all. It was suggested to Mrs. Dryden to consider a 3rd walk-in date and encourage mail-in registration should the on-line registration not be viable. The repeat registration volunteers has made the process easier and the number of registrations with questions to be followed-up on much fewer.

Volunteer Director: Mr. Ruckstuhl noted that although recreation registration was on-going he did not supply volunteers for the registration. The Recreation Registrar handled volunteers. Mrs. Lundberg asked about a solution to handle volunteers with large amounts of hours not initiated or tracked by the teams, such as the Uniform Coordinator position under her jurisdiction. Mr. Ruckstuhl recommended that volunteer hours be reported to him through the volunteer's competitive team Volunteer Coordinator. Submitting volunteer hours directly to him is not the best way to have them recorded. Questions were raised about new teams not knowing of volunteer requirements and there not being a written Volunteer Policy on the website. Mrs. Phillips suggested estimating the hours actually needed by the club so teams would know how many volunteer hours are required. For example if there are 50 teams and each has 30 hours, will 1500 hours really be enough? Mrs. Phillips wondered about the record keeping of team volunteer hours and if all of the hours were actually accounted for due to previous communications issues. Mr. Ruckstuhl confirmed that he will communicate to the Team Coordinators that the system can now be updated with corrections and that atypical volunteer hours including Registration Volunteer hours, Field Striping hours and other non-board position volunteer hours need to be reported through their competitive team Volunteer Coordinators. Mr. Ruckstuhl also recommended having a pool of volunteers available to be called upon at a moment's notice.

Tournament Director: Mr. Tharakan stated he plans to have a conversation with AYSO about the ability to temporarily switch Sunnyvale city fields so that SASC can use Raynor park fields in addition to SSC on tournament days.

Fundraising Director: Mrs. Caturegli informed the board about T-shirt sales being held at the walk-in registration days. She requested that the tournament and Jamboree folks let her know at least a month in advance about their events so she may plan food and item sales among other things. Mrs. Caturegli is planning another fundraising dinner at Armadillo Willy's. Her goal is to have two of these nights per season and to maximize publicity for these events but to be as paperless as possible. Fliers are expensive. She urges everyone to push the eScrip opportunity to his or her teams.

Mrs. Caturegli was starting to plan for Fun Day for 2009 and will work with Jaya Desale to coordinate pictures. Mr. Carpenter announced that we will use the same photographer that SASC has used previously (Shooting Stars). Mrs. Caturegli needs to confirm the Fun Day date as early as possible because it is much better for SASC to begin requesting donations from merchants in June and July so that we do not compete with schools who ramp-up their efforts in the fall. Cheryl Ching will chair Fun Day again.

OLD BUSINESS

SSC Update This agenda item was addressed during the Vice President's board member report.

District II Charges This agenda item was tabled until Mr. Kluz could attend.

NEW BUSINESS

BOD Communication: Mr. Carpenter discussed his goal to improve communication within the board. He inquired of the group at large as to what is their expected level of communication? The general consensus was that members would be first contacted at their 'primary contact' as designated on the board roster to be distributed by Ms. Johnson, members would respond within two days and should members not respond within the two days, they can be contacted at their 'secondary contact' also indicated on the roster.

Policies

- Discipline Policy: The board needs to address non-responses from coaches.
- Competitive Uniform Policy: Mrs. Phillips has volunteered to develop a policy and presenting it to the board for approval. It will then be posted on the website.
- Volunteer Policy: This item was addressed in the field coordinators report.

Financial Aid: Mr. Carpenter reiterated the previous statement made by Mrs. Lundberg that there was \$11 remaining in the scholarship fund at the end of 2008. He reminded the board that scholarships are funded through registration fees and that there was just enough this past season and the trend shows a continued demand for financial assistance. He recommended that certain percentages of or specific amounts of other monies raised through programs such as eScrip, fundraising and tournaments be earmarked for specific places, such as scholarship. Mrs. Lundberg distributed a report entitled “Changes to Financial Assistance Program” which is attached herewith and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Carpenter continued by saying that there is a need to limit certain abuses within the program and the noted modifications will be implemented. Scholarship forms will not be accepted in lieu of bad checks for registration fees. Also, two separate vendors have generously offered a 20% discount to SASC members on equipment. Mr. Carpenter stated the upcoming budget would be generated using better information culled from this year.

Additional Agenda Item – Fee review for Teams playing NorCal US Club in the spring: There is a need for a fee structure for charging teams who will play under NorCal US Club not DII CYSA. About 10% of the competitive teams are doing this for the spring, and it is a coming trend. NorCal offers a higher level of play in the spring season and the US Club fee structure is less than CYSA. The surrounding clubs have developed a model to handle this situation and it will only cause extra work for the short term until SASC has developed their own structure. It was moved by Miss Hlady, seconded by Mrs. Caturegli and carried ***“to let the Executive Committee decide the fee structure for teams playing under NorCal this spring.”***

REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

Due to the lateness of the hour this item was not performed.

CLOSED SESSION

All guests were requested to leave the room. The board discussed the new team request presented earlier in the meeting by Mr. Escalera. Mrs. Phillips advocated that the process for team formation is flawed and needs to be fixed. An indication needs to be given before the team is completely formed, with try-outs held and names chosen. It was moved, seconded and carried **“to Approve the U11G team (Top Gun) with Victor Escalera as Coach.”** Detailed minutes on the Closed Session are available to board members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Johnson,
Secretary