

## **Minutes of Arlington Soccer Association Board Meeting**

### **ASA Headquarters**

**Sept 27, 2010, 7:30 p.m.**

Present – Ken Bass, Bill Whittington, Jeff Oliver, Sam Anthony, Richard Easby, Justin Hall, Bob Waffle, and Anne Mathias. ASA staffers Wilt and Bigney present.

**7:31 p.m. Approval of August ASA minutes** – Bass recommended I Condense minutes – by topic – briefer. ACTION: Anthony will send out condensed minutes for August and Sept by this Thursday- with approval by all by the next Thursday.

**7:33 – staff reports** – Presented by J. Wilt. Questions about fundraising, and breakdown of player registration by clubs for last Spring 2010 and Fall 2009 as well as total travel players this year v last year. Board members recommended parents or other volunteers assist ASA staff during hectic 2 or 3 week registration period. Wilt – unpredictability of walk in registrations and call ins. Bigney inquired about guidance on soccerplus? He is hesitant to expand to other schools.

**7:40 Financial report** – Presented by J. Oliver. Revenue and financial aid not fully reported credit card fees. questions about travel budget items.

8:02 - financial report delivered to programs 3 days before meetings? Easby. Jerry (travel finance committee rep attended here) feel more lead time is needed when submitting reports as they feel they are doing their work blindly. They believe travel has exceeded financial aid cap. This raised questions and discussion about ASA organization now and in past –what works best and why. D. Oden’s primary responsibility should be to financial reports and getting financials out in a form we can all use in a easy to read format, and travel and rec committee need financial info in a timely manner. Examples given of bad situations and need for financial cushion.

**This segued into Travel Committee report by Easby:** Need to have budget mechanism of controls. Bass – get info you want by next month’s travel meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday) and see how that goes.

Resolution by Easby on behalf of travel committee. requests not budgeted, like bonuses. How can this be done? By phone, email, etc. I seconded it.

Whittington – asked about by-laws. Bass – exec dir provides budget and board approves it. By laws are not specific. Not conflict with anything in current by-laws. This is a good way for good governance. Oliver – this is a vetting process. Hall – concerned about changing method and thus by-laws. Board approves budget. Anything not in budget or exceeds budget, is what is on. If we deviate form budget (exceed) we need oversight and stewardship. All in favor, not unanimous – save Bob Waffle.

## **8:40 – program committee reports**

**Recreation report provided by J. Oliver:** working out teams between clubs. thinking about a tournament next fall. Lots of planning and volunteers needed. We could have outside teams. Neighboring clubs. Bass recommended to start with 2 year plan. Bigney – what is objective. Not Columbus day tournament, but after the season (November). Continuation of discussion about splitting U13 and U 14 players is getting nowhere. One rec club manager is strongly against – issue tabled to November. Oliver’s goal is to survey to U13/14 coaches. Age group coordinator concept – to test out concept of using age group coordinator. 2<sup>nd</sup> to get u13/14 and teen looking at things differently. Not a single soccer club in the U.S. has adopted our model. Historic sponsorships mentioned- an issue that is waiting from finance committee about policy and disclosure about sponsors and fundraising. Bigney raised issue of how we form teams. We’ve standardized equipment, etc. Get managers and coaches to determine best practices. Before team formation date and after. What is definition of “full”? discussion about team size and philosophy. Wilt – must discuss later. Winter workshop could help hammer out this and other issues amongst club managers.

**9:12 travel report provided by Easby** – two coaching vacancies U11 and U9 girls coach. Ongoing issue – travel alumni game for this Thanksgiving! Formed nominating committee. Richard not returning , position ends this spring. Sean Hamilton? Coaches game oct 2<sup>nd</sup>. Raise money for teams. Need 2 assistant refs. 6 p.m. game.

**9:17 p.m. – 9:27 – Teen Program** report provided by Anthony. 12 boys teams, 10 girls teams. 3 ref system working well. teen committee meeting early in October to discuss what is going right, what can be improved, and how can we raise teen awareness of this league and thus increase number of players in the teen program.

no standing committee reports.

**Crystal City status report provided by J. Wilt.** – Question: Did Crystal City parents and coaches go to county board meeting on Sept 25 to complain? Crystal City club doing well, but teen girls team and problems with ASA reveal misinformation. Crystal City has 202 active players. Priority is in finding someone who is a capable manager? Discussion about merger with another club – south Arlington and Crystal city? And how does ASA reach kids and parents affiliated with Hoffman Boston Elementary School?

**9:37 p.m. - Fundraising plan presented by B. Waffle** – focused on DC United and Oliver –a good start but he has two questions: the cost for United (20K) is relatively cheap, but what are we (ASA) giving away. (2). Has DC United done anything like this with anyone else? Waffle – not in place yet and no other MLS club has done this. Board members asked for a sponsorship menu, listing the various levels of donations and what an organization can get (naming rights) at each level. Oliver asked how do we determine if this is best action? Are we reaching out to others besides DC United?

Bass – ACTION ITEM: fundraising committee put menu into a form that can be approved by board. Easby recommends this work goes to fundraising committee – if it passes, then to board for approval. Bass: put it in menu with prices. Fundraising committee approves this plan for sponsorships and recommends board vote to approve. Then fundraising committee has permission to go out and do it. Must reach out to clubs to keep them informed. Clubs are free to find their own sponsors but must adhere to guidelines. Club manager should be brought in. Bass – include “as of Fall 2011, every club must have an active sponsor”

Easby – what are we raising money for? Scholarship, uniforms and equipment? Lower the fees as a result? Wilt – we’ve eaten through reserve, we must replenish. Reducing the cost of participation and ease of access. Or keep

Waffle – keep refining budget, map out philosophy, resolution for budget. Short period of time.

**10:30 p.m. Discussion about rec issue involving Tanzmans team and team formation deadline** – Whittington recommends it is a Rec committee matter. Oliver – have we evolved to the point that Justin cannot resolve issue? One particular team – does rec committee take over? Oliver says this is not even a rec team issue. Discussion by board members about how to give players, parents, coaches, and club managers more time in the Fall to make sure things are done right – start the season a week later? reduce the season by one game?

Resolution –Whittington moves that this issue referred to rec committee to send a response and determine long-term policy issue. seconded by Anthony, unanimously approved.

Bass – does rec want some amount of leeway? Wilt –we’ve had this happen 2 seasons in a row – what do you, club managers, need to keep this from happening? Most of rec clubs did fine Tanzman’s did fine but with one team.

10:45 p.m – MOU with Arlington County – Presented by K Bass. – do a draft, send it around, get more comments. If you have additional comments, send them to Ken in next few days. We ought to outline where the money goes. Push for barcroft field (is a community field) one youth sized field used by adults. We want it all day Saturday and Sunday for games. It is a youth field and should be used for youth games. Continue to convert fields for greater use (to synthetic). There are more kids in the schools. George towner on sports commission – we’ll press them too. Bluemont and powhatan – do something about those – turf them and light them.

10:58 p.m. – meeting adjourned