

Essex United Soccer Club
September 8, 2008
Meeting Minutes

Present: Garry Malle, Kim Drury, Steve Wildermuth, Tammy Abajian, Justin Janaro, Cheryl Bowers, Kristen Lyon, Jennie Barnao, Tom Palin, and Toni Finnegan

The meeting was held at the Essex High School in Room C102 and called to order by Steve at 7:10 pm.

The August 2008 Meeting Minutes were reviewed by the board. **A motion to accept the minutes was made by Garry, seconded by Justin and the motion passed.**

Treasurer's Report: Kim provided the Board with the Balance Sheet (as of 8/31/08) as well as an Income/Expense Comparison report dated from 9/1/06-8/31/08 to reflect seasonal growth/activity. Given that the season ended last month, minimal change/activity occurred with cash flow. In preparation for finalizing the budget for '09, Kim presented the Board with a copy of proposed 1st draft of 2009 season budget based on related income/expenses over the past year(s). Kim also asked the Board to consider setting a cash cushion, or amount of cash "on hand" to support any unexpected expenses. Currently the league has roughly 19,500.00 cash reserve. The Board agreed that this number should be maintained for purposes of proposing budget to date. If the Board needs to scrutinize costs in the future, several areas could be amended, including field rental, tournament fees, referee reimbursements, patches, and coaching uniforms.

Garry suggested that the Board consider auditing the amount of refunds to date and work to effectively problem-solve around the issues involving refunds to those that voluntarily drop-out or move on to other clubs. He suggested that we work harder to reduce the amount of players on waitlists and continue to market for additional teams/coaches if necessary.

When looking at budget costs, several members of the Board also discussed the how monies were granted for out-of-state tournaments. The Board agreed that the ultimate goal was to encourage teams to participate in state and regional tournaments to increase positive learning experience and develop enhanced sportsmanship and athletic skills. Steve and Garry proposed to formalize a budget to coaches to help streamline costs. Jennie suggested that each team should be allotted a specific monetary amount to be used at their discretion for tournaments based on average cost. Cheryl suggested that only U10 and above should be allotted monies for away tournaments. Members also suggested that the group generate a list of acceptable tournaments within budget constraints. Kim agreed to run the financial report for out-of-state tournament fees for next meeting for the Board to review. Steve suggested that before any definitive costs/decisions are made, Ed DeMulder, as the Coach Coordinator, needed to be present

to discuss coaching expectations and determine what is reviewed at onset of season. Proposal was made to table conversation until more information was made available.

Registrar's Report: Tammy provided the Board with a registration update for the 2009 season. At this time there are roughly 125 registrants (u6-u17), down from 155 from last year to date. Donations to the league continue to increase. The hope is that several families will register this week given that the second "face-to-face" registration night is set for tomorrow evening. Kristen, Tammy, Justin, Kim, Steve, and Tom agreed to be present for ongoing registration questions.

Kristen acknowledged that some parents were questioning whether registration is mandatory before tryouts. Steve and Garry indicated that historically, all players needed to have releases signed the day of tryouts. In order to increase uniformed league expectations and reduce administrative tasks, members agreed to the proposal that all players need to be registered at least 24 hours before set tryout schedule. Members will be allowed to tryout with signed releases and secured payment.

Garry and Tammy have agreed to continue to pass out flyers to families who participate in the Fall Recreational League this weekend. Registration will be closed to those that miss their assigned tryouts. Updated schedule is posted online and families can access it immediately.

Jennie raised concern about biased tryout evaluation based on current online contact information (i.e. current U10 tryout coordinator served as head coach for U10 team last year and has child currently enrolled in U10 program). Jennie indicated that parental perception may deter families from engaging in program, or at least raise question of unfair evaluation. She suggested that the Board consider utilizing coordinators at variable levels to minimize bias across the board. Garry added that the disadvantage to utilizing evaluators at different levels is that control numbers may be skewed if coaches are unfamiliar with average skill performance, etc. Tom also indicated that the league has very few skilled volunteers to serve as coordinators and asking them to serve among a different team would be asking them to give up 4-5 weekends which would be hard to commit to. In addition, Steve indicated that Ed works diligently with coordinators to define group expectations, duties, and responsibilities to create uniform evaluation. Tammy agreed to add a clause online that would include the tryout coordination expectations as well as inform families of the process to minimize confusion or false assumptions. Included will be information about placement needs in relation to excused and unexcused absences from tryouts.

Garry proposed that the Board consider mandating online registration for next season. Board to table decision until '09 registration is completed.

Old Business: Tammy looked into consolidating EUSC web site with Blue Sombrero. Questions raised as to who would maintain (if necessary) webmaster position within the Board to continue to update, organize news, etc within the club? Can we streamline ways to get to the new site from our existing site? How can we maximize our web site to make

it the “hub” of EUSC communication (show updated graphics, notices, coaches information, etc.)? And how we could transfer meeting minutes online, including archived files? Tammy indicated that with the transfer to Blue Sombrero we could have so many more resources at our fingertips. It does not take much time to update, except that the work would require someone to maintain a master profile to access entire web site. Steve suggested that Tammy discuss logistics with Randy who supports transfer and is slowly working his way out of “his job”.

****Per email update from Randy to the Board on 9/10/09; there is a way to automatically redirect people to the new web site. As long as we continue to pay our current internet service provider. Since we “own” the new web address www.essexunitedsoccer.org we may be able to point it to the new web site without needing the redirection and eliminating the need for a separate internet service provider. Randy agreed to look into this.

Secondly, Randy agreed to copy archived notes to a CD to transfer. He noted that he should be able to simply upload our entire web site to Blue Sombrero once he knows where to send it. Randy has been given administrative authority and will browse the new web site to see what is possible.

Tournament Report: Cheryl presented the Board with testimonials from the 17th Annual EUSC tournament. Overall, the feedback was extremely positive and teams have been encouraged by the upkeep of the facility, organization of staff and volunteers, as well as the overall administration. On the flip side, some comments were made regarding invariable showing of referees as well as inconsistent or unfair calls. Some also noted issues with recycling; an area that has been difficult to manage in the past.

Cheryl indicated that she would like to recognize the group of men/women on the tournament committee for all their effort to run/operate this event. Kim motioned to provide each of the tournament committee members with a 25.00 gift certificate for their efforts. Motion seconded by Tom and approved by all. Cheryl expected to purchase the donations and extend to the committee members on behalf of the Board. Garry proposed that the Board consider adopting this donation/gift in the future pending financial success of the tournament.

Equipment Coordinator Report: No official report from Toni. She acknowledged the need to secure space for equipment. Plan to follow up with Garry for next month.

Uniform Report: No report. Upcoming registration information to be collected and organized over the next 2 months. Order expected to go in by December 2008 for arrival in early Spring '09.

VSL Report: Tom reiterated ongoing concerns regarding notification of Division levels among teams pre-season and hopeful to connect with Ed DeMulder before attending upcoming VSL meeting. Tom again stressed the importance of coaches to be mindful of

their teams placement early on in the season as VSL begins to coordinate schedules immediately.

Tree Farm Representative Report: No report.

Coach Coordinator's Report: On behalf of Ed, Steve generate the coaching coordinator report for the month indicating who has volunteered to serve as the tryout coordinator for specified age group and what dates/times they have been assigned tryouts. Included in the report Ed indicated that he has generated a list of head coaches for each age group as well as lining up "B" level coaches now. He is in the process of identifying a U8 team coordinator for this year. Tammy has agreed to generate a list of potential volunteers per Blue Sombrero and Justin has agreed to help mentor the new coordinator given his experience over the past 2 years. Tyler Renaud (Norwich University Womens Coach) has agreed to run the U6 program.

Coordinators meeting(s) will be happening this week and next with each coordinator attending at least one session to review expectations, tryout plans, etc.

Ed will be attending VSA meetings as well and will have conflicts periodically with EUSC board meetings. Members have agreed to consider alternate dates of the month to accommodate Ed's schedule, as his role is crucial during registration, evaluation, and planning processes for league.

New Business: In looking ahead to our annual meeting in December, Steve proposed that we consider creating more of an "event driven" evening with our EUSC players and families to include more interaction among volunteer coaches, players, and families. Steve suggested we consider renting the Indoor Soccer Center in Essex Junction to enable more game-play as well as booths for information for volunteering, schedule logistics, etc. Member suggested we do a 50/50 raffle as well. Steve agreed to contact the SoccerCenter and will generate a subcommittee to begin preparations as we move toward annual meeting time.

Old Business: Steve acknowledged that the EHS program celebrated its 50th year of soccer a couple of weeks ago. Jim Brady, Head coach for EHS, during the ceremony spoke passionately about EUSC and the timeless amount of support we have put into training and encouraging sportsmanship in our community youth; many of whom have continued to pursue soccer at the High School level.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, October 13th at 7 p.m. at the Essex High School.

A motion was made by Garry to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kim. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m. by Steve.

Respectfully submitted by Kristen Lyon, Secretary

