

Minutes of **the** May 4, 2009 SYS Board Meeting

Present: Ron W., Natasha C., Lisa M., Brenda B., Heston C., Kevin R., Roy P., Ken W., Scot B., Keith B., Mike R., John C., David L., Jim R., Allen J., Andrea B., Bob P., Mindy H., Bob R., Chris W., Bob G.

The meeting began shortly after 7:00 PM.

The minutes for the April 9 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mike R. went over the SYS financial situation. There were several questions about expenses. All expenses are consistent with our financial situation at this time last year. The secretary was asked to write two thank-you notes for gifts received in the past month--\$840 from Intel via Jim McKay and a \$235 refund from Abdeslam Elhajje. Ron asked Natasha to find out how many pairs of socks we have in inventory.

Fall registration—Bob P. gave out to and went over, for the benefit of the AGCs, material relating to preparing team info he needs for the fall season. On-line registration runs from 5/7-5/27. It then ends for awhile for player evaluations. A player can register at player evaluations. Bob will provide AGCs with lists of everyone who said they were going to player evaluations. He wants to be sure that AGCs will be able to redirect a kid who comes to the wrong evaluation session. Coaches should know who has said they are going to player evaluations. A player must be registered to tryout and must have paid before Div. 1 teams are selected to be eligible for a Div. 1 team. Also, girls can tryout for a mixed team and for a girl's team. Registration will reopen online after the evaluation sessions are over. Bob then went over the team-submission forms. He said he would send the AGCs templates and instructions for filling them out. Ron said he would take care of getting info about registration dates to the appropriate media outlets. Bob P. will get out flyers to non-public school venues. At public schools, info will be given out electronically. Walk-in registration will be held at Sherwood M S on 5/20 from 6:30-8:00. Lisa said she'd take care of reserving the space at Sherwood.

The late fee will be charged after 5/27 and kids who sign up at the tryout session will also be charged a late fee.

Ron said we'd have to hold our next board meeting on Tuesday, June 2, since the evaluation sessions will take up the rest of the week. At this meeting, the coaches for the next season will be selected.

Uniform Subcommittee Report—Mike R. gave the report. He went over how the new system for mini uniforms with sponsors is working out so far. He thinks we are currently losing money on uniform costs for the traveling teams but can't be sure because the information can't be extracted from the financial data he has. He had four bids for new uniforms but one was thrown out because of the poor quality of the product. The three bids were from Adidas (Eurosport) for \$37 per uniform, Diadora (RP Sportswear) for \$42 per uniform, and Lanzera (Eurosport) for \$42 per uniform.

The first and third bids exclude any discount from the vendor for purchasing equipment (about \$2.60 to \$4.10 per uniform.) It was pointed out that we should try to get a bid from the current vendor, U-Save Sports. It was agreed that this should be done.

Mike said that, if we raise the registration fee by \$10 for players U-10+ players and do not have a separate uniform charge and, if each traveling player gets a new uniform each year, it would cost the program somewhere between \$8250 to \$12,500 per season. After further number crunching, including the effect of sponsors for the mini uniforms the bottom line, Mike said, is that the full-year net impact to our ongoing budget would be between \$4250 and \$8500. The impact to the 2009 budget would be approximately \$12,500 to \$17,000, which reflects only the registration fee increase for the fall of 2009. Mike feels the program can handle this kind of shortfall right now

Some discussion followed. Some felt that this was ore costly for families with more than one child in the program since handing down of uniforms no longer worked. Others felt that this was a kind of deferred uniform payment and would be easier for many families than putting out \$60 at one shot. Some felt that this was wasteful, since each kid would be getting a new uniform each year whether he or she needed one or not. Others said that we could donate the old uniforms to poorer regions. Roy felt that if we managed our inventory correctly, we could go to a new uniform every other year. Some felt that raising our registration fee didn't make sense since the kids only play 8 games per season. Others said that including practice time, our costs seem competitive with other towns' soccer programs and with other Shrewsbury sports programs. It was pointed out that, if we adopt this change, it would only be a commitment for the coming year and we can revisit the situation next spring. This seemed to be an important point to many board members. The point was also made that we have to do something about the uniforms since they are no longer manufactured.

Andre B. made a motion that:

we approve the change to travel uniforms for the U10+ teams starting in the fall season of 2009;

we eliminate the separate payment of uniforms; and

we increase the registration fee for U-10+ from \$85 to \$95 for travel and in-town teams.

The vote was 14 for this motion and 4 against so the motion was **approved**. Which uniforms would be chosen was not discussed but will be discussed later.

Ron then said he thought we should consider adding U-5s to the mini program in the fall of 2009.

There was some discussion about the history of adding U-5s just in the spring. Ken W. said that, if we decide to make this change, he didn't think the U-5s should be playing games yet and certainly not 45-minute games. The cut-off date to determine if a player is old enough to sign up would be the same as for any other age group. A vote was taken on Ron's motion that we have a U-5 program in the fall and that we let Ken suggest the format for this program.

The vote was 13 for, 4 against, and 1 abstention, so the motion was **approved**.

Field report—The fields at all locations are starting to look a lot better with the warm weather. Keith said the sprinklers at Glavin have been opened but there are a lot of problems that need to be fixed before they can be turned on. These problems are being addressed. David said he is seeking bids for improving the poor drainage at field 3 at Glavin. Keith said that the repaving of the parking lot at will also be put out to bid. The parking-lot work should start as soon as the season and evaluation sessions are over. We many need to wait until the MAYS tournament is over.

Player/Coach development—Ken W. said there will be a mini coaches' clinic at Municipal from 6-7:30 PM on 5/12.

Roy said the U-12 keeper clinic went very well. PlaySoccer provided 3, instead of 2, coaches at no extra charge. Players were very responsive. Roy needs more U-14 kids for the keeper clinic that is scheduled for 5/13 from 5:30-7:30 PM. Roy said that coaches have been taking advantage of using the PlaySoccer coach who will run a practice for them. Roy has had to schedule these sessions on a week-by-week basis because of the threat of rainouts.

MAYS report—Bob R. said that SYS was fined twice so far due to late starts. Both were U-10 coaches. Both coaches have been informed. MAYS is cracking down on non-weather-related postponements. Only weather-related postponements will be allowed for the rest of the season.

New business--Scott B. said there are a few mini kids who are slide tackling and tripping other kids in games. Ken will remind coaches to stop such behavior in an email.

Lisa said that Breakers tickets should be available soon. The Revolution wants DSYS to get involved in a “night” at one of their home games. Lisa will give more info about this later.

Keith said that the sponsor ads on the mini shirts seem to be noticed in positive way by the parents.

The meeting ended at 9:24 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Garvey