

Mass Youth Soccer BOD Meeting
October 18, 2006

Present: S. Bloom, H. Blatt, T. Filippetti, S. Gorman, N. Hart, J. Linnehan, D. Martinez, K. Krumpholz, T. Ritchie, W. Shaughnessy, S. Smoller, J. Burrill, M. Singleton, J. Utter.

A quorum was declared present, meeting called to order by Sid Bloom at 7:03 pm.

Acceptance of previous meeting minutes

Nancy Hart moved, seconded by Dave Martinez, to accept the September meeting minutes. Accepted unanimously.

Executive Director's Report –

Submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Ted Ritchie raised issue of liability for the field complex regarding lightning, since we do not provide shelter even as basic as an open building (just a roof on a cement base) and also no shelter from rain. John Burrill will ask Gale Associates to provide some suggestions and estimates.

DOC Report – submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Program Manager Reports

State Cup

Terri Filippetti reported the second challenge round is Saturday at Devens. Ted Ritchie reported that some MAPLE coaches are trying to prohibit players from attending practice of their town teams, sometimes trying to prohibit dual rostering. Consensus was we need cooperation of the adults to follow the guidelines and not cause problems for the kids.

Leagues Committee

John Linnehan reported the committee had their first meeting of the season last month with nothing significant to report.

Recreation

Nancy Hart reported there were 84 teams participating in the recreation tournament, held at two locations – Framingham and Andover. Sid Bloom commented on how well the Framingham Soccer volunteers handled things there. Next year, the tournament is tentatively scheduled for September 30 and we hope to be able to run it at the new field complex as its first official event.

Instruction

Howie Blatt complimented Mike Singleton on his reviews of the instructional staff. He gave them great input for improvement.

Outreach

A report was distributed to the members in Steve Snow's absence.

Treasurer

John Burrill distributed the balance sheet and budget reports and went over the reports in Carl Goldstein's absence.

ODP

This was covered in the DOC report.

SYRA

John Utter reported that the referee committee has approved its budget. They have rolled back the registration fees by \$5. Recertification courses will be offered at 13 sites. The courses for new referees are being set up and registration for them will begin November 1.

Field Complex

John Burrill distributed a financial report prepared by our bank's engineer, separating expenditures by category.

Re-aligning the District Select Program

Bill Shaughnessy presented a suggestion from the Coastal League regarding the make-up of the districts for this program. The primary force behind the proposed change came from Hingham and Scituate. The proposal would swap a few towns among Districts 1, 2 and 3. Bill suggested he would present the proposal and then have it tabled pending further discussion with Nancy Hart. The intent of the proposal is to keep the Coastal league together so they can promote the program as a recreational league all star team to raise enthusiasm for the program in this district. After some discussion, Nancy Hart said she would attend the next Coastal League meeting to discuss this proposal further. The issue is tabled till our next board meeting.

Election of board members

The nominating committee will report on a slate for the AGM by November 15.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

- **Apparel contract.** Sid Bloom reported that we are negotiating for an apparel contract with Adidas, Nike and Puma. Nothing to report as yet on proposals or negotiations.
- **Contributions to field complex** John Burrill reported we have received \$8,000 so far for the fields in memory of Paul Irwin, recently departed board member and president of MAPLE.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Smoller
Secretary

Addendum:

1. Executive Director Report John Burrill

Field Project

Work on the fields is concentrated on the synthetic turf fields. Surface preparation will take several weeks. The concrete curbing is in for 4 of the fields, the underground conduit for lights sometime in the future have been installed, the filter fabric is going down with the drainage and stone layer on top of the fabric.

We will have 12" of stone with a final ¼" layer of finer stone. Once that is all down, the final laser grading will take place and then the fields are ready to be turned over to Northeast Turf to install the synthetic surface.

All the natural grass fields are seeded and the growing. We can even see some blue grass starting to come up. Most all the non-field areas have been raked and hydro seeded.

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The building is coming along. It has been painted outside and inside. Final installation of the plumbing fixtures still needs to occur and we have not tied into the Wagner well as of yet for potable water. We have run the line from the Wagner well over to our building and tested the line... no leaks. The counter tops need to be installed and the finish work in the bathrooms stills needs to be done. The water storage tanks have been installed in the storage room.

Work is being done to finish off the road through the main parking lot and I expect the 1st layer of asphalt to be put down in the next two weeks. Also the finish coat of asphalt will be put down in the office parking lot. We will hold off until spring to have the finish coat put on the roadway.

The picnic pods are about done and have tables, which are quite heavy by the way. Work has not been done on the natural trail

We apparently still have issues with the neighbors across RT 70 who live along the pond. Frankly, I am not sure this issue will ever go away.

I have been gathering bids from alarm companies for security for the two buildings on the complex. Also bids from folks to maintain the fields. I will meet with the folks who put the grass fields in to get their recommendations.

Fund Raising

No real activity. I did meet with a representative from the local Coke Cola bottler, not corporate Coke, and while they would like their product sold here, they are not interested in any sponsorship deal.

I did meet with someone from Citizens Bank. They will hold off any announcement until January. The ball program has been scaled back once again, but is going forward. I am not sure how interested they are in coming up with a separate logo for the complex, but they will get back to me.

Harper

We are still in the process of getting an agreement to settle this matter.

Equipment

I will have to look at buying several full size goals. The plan is to have at least one of the synthetic fields available for the ODP team that will be playing in Texas in the ODP Nationals.

Recreation Tournament

With two sites, we have a record number of applications. Had to turn away a few teams.

Financing

Our additional loan has closed and funds already spend.

Open position

Nicole Dessingue will be starting as of November 1 in the Communications & Marketing Manager position.

2. DIRECTOR OF COACHING/ INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM REPORT

Mike Singleton, Director of Coaching Howie Blatt, Director of Instructional Programs

The instructional staff remains quite busy with coach/player development programs and continued coursework. We are seeing a number of course requests for November now as well.

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We are in the process of making up multiple sessions on topics ranging from U6 soccer to counterattacking to pressing to zonal defending etc. for publication on our website. We will be making the instructional section a virtual encyclopedia of sessions.

Staff is reviewing and updating our specialty clinics to make sure our offerings are always up to date and top quality. We are also reviewing the Skills Patch Award Program to consider possible improvements.

We will soon have a nutritional guide pamphlet for players and coaches that we will hand out and place on the website.

An annual process of review for our courses and course manuals will be standard heading forward as well. Rather than have to go through the process of rewriting all the manuals, which we have done over the past few years, we will continually update our courses and manuals. Doing this will prevent us from having to take on the massive project of complete revision at any time in the future.

Mike ran a G course for Project Coach and reports that Project Coach is running well and improving. We plan on helping the directors of the program, however we can, to insure longevity and growth for this program.

Laura is running a coaches training clinic for Special Olympics.

Upon video review and discussion RDW has agreed that the video shot for the G course is not adequate and due to the video crew's poor handling of the video RDW has offered to re-shoot the video at no cost to us. We are currently working on securing arrangements for this.

Tara has been working hard to schedule Skills Academy sites and a number of sites are already confirmed and on the web. We will likely add a couple of new sites this year due to requests we have received from localities.

ODP callback tryouts are complete and our winter pools have been selected. Notification is currently going out to players. Winter training will begin in January.

3. District Report to Board of Directors October 16, 2006

Bill Shaughnessy, Director

Twenty-eight days have passed since our last Board meeting on September 20th. Clubs in District II, Coastal and South Shore League members, are starting or in their Fall "in-house" programs. Things are slow in the Fall in District II. With the temperature dropping chemical treatment and local Board of Health field use restrictions due to Eastern Equine Encephalitis behind us Fall soccer is moving into full swing.

September 30th saw the Cranberry League blazing away in the Coastal. Centered in Halifax this Fall league offers outdoor travel soccer opportunities to those clubs from area leagues who want to tune up against out of town competition. The only requirement is MA youth affiliation and CORI.

Several club coaches plan to take there teams indoors over the winter months at locations such as the Bridgewater Dome, and the Canton Sports Plex (South Shore League), South Shore Sports Center in Hingham and Proshots Athletic Center in Pembroke (Coastal League), or Four kicks in Norfolk.

September 24th, a beautiful 70 degree Sunday with a slight southwest wind found me out to enjoy 3 great MAPLE games. At 2:30, I traveled to Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School to watch my Blackhawk's GU12-Blue fall to the Fuller Hamlets 0-5 and then my Blackhawk's GU13 Div 1, get the best of the NE Eagles,

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1-0. My attendance at this one was cut short when a parent on the sidelines informed me she was off to Attleboro as the Nova GU13 Div 2, was going at it with Explosion FC. Both my clubs, two birds with one stone. Off I went at a high rate of speed. I arrived just after the start of the half. The same parent asked didn't I just see you down the road? That is the gas allotment for this month. Nova pulled if off 1-0.

September 29th Coastal League High School Rivals Silver Lake girl's varsity soccer team took on Pembroke High School at Sirocco Field in Kingston. We orchestrated an experiment. The Silver Lake Lady Lakers Boosters were asked to allow ALL MA Youth Soccer players from surrounding towns to gain admission free of charge if they wore their town youth soccer team jersey and donated 1 canned good at the gate. The Boosters could then donate the collected foodstuff to a local pantry. The Boosters and Bill Johnson the Silver Lake Athletic Director agreed and admission charges were waived. I counted 6 different towns represented.

I have gathered a group of U17 age appropriate girls who were "kinda hanging out" in the parking lot at the High School watching the game through the fence. This group has a lot of previous soccer experience going to waste. They just could not afford fees beyond a basic even split. THEY talked me into getting them a free coach so they could play soccer. I found a coach in Jack Carr from Kingston Youth Soccer who volunteered for the job. A fine dedicated coach I might add. The new UNKOWNS SOCCER TEAM is now a field use commitment away from applying for a Spring 2007, MAPLE D slot. Remember the name I have good feeling on this one.

October 2nd, brought me to the Coastal League monthly meeting held at the Hanover Town Hall. The towns in the league were well represented and plans for the Spring Season were underway. The league wants the District Select program returned to the league. They want to promote coaches and players to a league select team. Oh by the way this is a freebie on my visitation list as I am the League Registrar.

October 3rd Rockland Youth Soccer held a monthly meeting at the town hall. I arrived as the meeting ended. I got lost. Went to the wrong location.

October 10th we got back on schedule. Kingston Youth Soccer met at the Kingston Town House, Room 101. This club always has a good turnout. Nancy Seiden the President is way ahead of the curve.

October 14th at about 10 AM, we drove over to the Lincoln Street fields in Duxbury to attend the U12-14 tryouts. A large parent, brother sister and even great grandparent turnout attended this one.

It was a good choice as I wore my only MA Youth Soccer shirt*.

Tonight (16th) I intend to visit the SSL Meeting.

*ps I do not participate in EMT's operations anymore until a get a replacement shirt.