

LYSA Board Meeting Minutes - 11/10/2016, 7:30pm at West Road Concession

Attendees: Jessica Anastasi, Mike Bartlett, Paul D'Errico, MaryJo Ferrick, Alli Flaherty, Eric Goedde, Joe Green, Kerri Stanley

Meeting was opened at 7:35pm, seconded by Joe. Meeting Minutes of 10/5/16 were reviewed. Motion was made to approve the Meeting Minutes, seconded by Alli.

End of season summary

1. U4 - U8 - For U4 / U6 Alli stated parents liked having Mark. Mixed feedback on having him weekly or occasionally. Two coaches canceled their 11/5 game. We need to reiterate the policy as to who decides when games are played. Kerri stated that U8 overall was pleased with the season. Coaches for U8/U10 would prefer time one on one to work with teams to go over positioning, etc.
2. U10 play offs - Some coaches said it would have helped to know when the play offs were. This had been provided to them at the beginning of the season but perhaps follow up reminders would help.
3. Inter-town play offs - Jess said they went well and both U12 and U15 made it to the play offs. U12 won in a shootout; U15 lost to the shoot out. Both Londonderry teams were undefeated the entire season. Jess has an inter-town meeting scheduled for 11/21 with 5 towns attending. Chris Ethier brought on a non-registered player, same as last year, for the final game. Jess had advised him that this wasn't allowed due to liability but it needs to be reiterated.

Volunteer / referee / staff finance - Kerri stated that we paid out \$915 in volunteer fees, \$955 in concession staff pay, and we had brought in approximately \$11,450 in volunteer refunds based on the number of registrations for the fall. Paul stated he did a quick summary of finances and for the entire year (spring and fall), We started at \$29,400 and ended at \$33,000. Last year we were at -\$4,000, so we are ahead this year. If we hadn't spent what we did, we'd probably have another \$30k.

Paul stated that next year, we will have the parking lot lights rewired so we can still use them after the breaker is turned off for the season. They are currently wired to the new field 1 poles.

Fields - Bob stated that the LYSA Reunion group is having a game on the Saturday after Thanksgiving and Sid asked him to have the goals out on field 3 for them to play. He will put some paint out on field 1 for the referee clinic taking place on November 19.

Field 1 got overused this fall. We aren't sure if there will be an issue with using it for the spring but lacrosse will be using it in the spring as well. Coaches need to be told not to practice in the goal mouths to minimize wear.

Concession - Paul stated that having Mike worked out well and he did a good job. He spent about \$2,200 in concession food/supplies. Port a potties have been picked up for the season. He will be doing some end of season cleaning in the next couple of weeks.

Finances/taxes - Kerri informed the board that our taxes will not be filed by Nov 15 since the finances are in disarray. Eric Palmer stated that he could do the reconciling but needed the 2015 paperwork, as well as the 2014 taxes. We need to get all of these documents to Eric and need to find out if we can file for an extension and if we don't, it is likely we will incur a penalty fee which we hope we can get waived. Kerri will follow up with the board with updates.

Registration platforms - GotSoccer incurs a lot of various fees so we'd like to consider another platform for registration. We'd need to see a demonstration from another company like Sports Engine and compare the fees and determine if we want to change or stay with GotSoccer. However this impacts spring registration and when we can open it to families.

Club merger. Kerri summarized that 4 of the board members met with Mark Ruest and Todd Ellis last week and after Mark left, Todd asked to discuss the merger and basically gave his pitch as to why he thought he was the best candidate to be president of the merged organization. He had proposed a 7-person executive board with 4 LYSA members and 3 LUSC members.

Joe stated that we are a quorum and would have preferred that those present had stopped Todd from discussing anything and stated that we all needed to be present to discuss.

Joe thought the tasks of the president would be not as involved as those of the VPs of each division and that this person should be a neutral person which is more in line with what he and other board members had previously discussed. Eric asked if there was anybody here that was interested? If no, then should it be a neutral person?

Joe stated the facts as he knew it:

- Feud between LUSC/LYSA. Government got involved and established the sanctioning as far as what rec is and what competitive is. All parties agreed. Then competitive didn't like that they couldn't roster under U8 players. They brought in families and kids that age to fight for them to be allowed to play. The TC waived the sanctioning and allowed them to play.
- Joe thinks if we put Todd as president, votes would be slanted towards travel's needs. The consensus was that the president should be somebody who knows both sides.
- Joe feels if anybody is dually credible in this organization, that Todd has no experience on the rec side and that Kerri has more experience. So if anybody that is already part of the organization should be considered, it should be somebody who knows both sides and is personable.
- Eric asked if we could get clarification on the finances and whether we would have to combine assets or if we could still merge but keep two separate accounts. Joe asked the group if we wanted to hire an attorney of a firm that was recommended to him that works in 501c situations. If we get him involved for a minimal fee, we could get clarification.
- Mike asked why are they losing money? Town organizations seem to be falling apart. Jess stated that the decisions the club is making doesn't seem to be helping the kids/club.
- Can "Londonderry Soccer" work cohesively but still function as two separate organizations?
- Joe feels that in 2-3 years LUSC will be non-existent. Do we let them die and then rebuild through LYSA?
- If we can keep finances separate, merging the two organizations could work but if not, the consensus felt the merger would not be a viable option for LYSA at this time. Why merge? What is our benefit? It seems it is more beneficial for them to merge with us than for us to merge with them.
- Mike feels we need to offer parents other options for competitive soccer besides the larger clubs like GPS and Seacoast. It would be ideal to be able to offer our own town's competitive club as long as it has strength and merit, as it keeps kids in town and playing together.
- Mike thought we should look at it not as that we are one club but what is the best move for the kids?
- Joe asked why can't we ask what we want just as Todd stated what he wanted?
- Bob didn't think merging would ultimately save LUSC.
- Kerri asked if it would be in our best interest to have a discussion with Todd and the LUSC board and with our board. Eric said he wanted to know first what our options are as far as merging finances because that would determine if we should even merge at all.
- Bob stated he has seen LYSA grow and flourish over the years. He sees their organization tanking due to the individuals who are running it. He stated he had to be like the ambassador between the two organizations' leaders for many years. Bob's son started in rec and then went to LUSC, eventually coached by Bob Rimol. Bob told Bob C. that if he wanted his son to have a happy high school soccer career, that he not send him to Londonderry due to the politics. It isn't our fault that their organization is suffering.
- Eric stated it was probably best to put things on hold for another year because LUSC is struggling due to its history.
- Paul D. is going to talk to Art to get his feedback on whether we can just continue as we have been and with no official soft merger.

- Kerri suggested that members of both board should meet to have an open discussion about all of this before any decision is made. Once we have done that, we can have a follow up meeting to make a final decision.

Other business - Kerri stated that she got more than 30 players interested in the futsal clinic Tom Bellen and Bruno Victal are offering on Sunday, Nov 13 at the SportsZone.

The board unanimously voted in MaryJo Ferrick as a board member, title TBD.

Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:33PM. Our next meeting will be in January, 2017, date and location TBD.