

Minutes from WSA Board Meeting July 7, 2008: Meeting Called to Order 7:45 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Paul Rossi, Mark Gudis, Wes Malowitz, Alex Anvari, Jane Orlin, Tara Brownlee, Robby Casey, Megan Loffredo, Loren Benjamin, Val Rogers, Mickey Kydes

### **President's Remarks – Paul Rossi**

1. Welcome Loren Benjamin to help w/ various issues on Travel soccer
2. Themes and plans for 2008/09 season: Overall goal is to make playing soccer the best sports experience in Westport for players and their families:
  - a. Rec. soccer is the foundation and we need to continue to focus on and improve the rec. program. Schedule meeting w/ MKSE, Alan Doran and Alex Anvari to discuss rec. program. Consider new Board position in charge of Tots/Rec.
  - b. Education of parents - goal is to avoid misunderstanding from parents through education of the rec. travel and premier soccer process; better job marketing WSA programs; re-present Soccer Landscape in CT with Bill Whitaker.
  - c. WIN – need to determine the direction to take WIN Tournament next year.
    1. Devote entire board meeting to WIN soon;
    2. Need to find WIN director and treasurer
  - d. Succession planning – must keep in mind the need to find and groom new Board members and bring them through the ranks.
  - e. Confidentiality – stressed importance of keeping discussions at Board meeting confidential until a final decision is made on a certain issue and our message is published to the public.
3. Rick Yu resigning as treasurer, but will stay on and do job until we have a replacement
4. Val Rogers will stay on a co-director of Travel until a replacement is found
5. In process of interviewing accountants and potential bookkeepers to replace or supplement treasurer role.

### **Directors' Reports:**

1. Rec. League – Alex Anvari  
Goals for 2008/09 season
  - a. improve competitive balance of rec. teams possibly by informally ranking players and developing teams with an even number of similarly ranked players; provide guidance to Commissioners on how to best make up the teams and not to publish rosters too early.
  - b. Establish rec. commissioner guidelines and meet with commissioners to set expectations for the season.
  - c. Would like to see expanded upper limits of rec. registration to avoid extensive waiting list depending on number of available coaches, field space and clinic space
  - d. Allow website use for scheduling of games
2. Travel – Jane Orlin  
Working on getting all managers and assistant managers in place for fall 2008 season  
U12 & U14 girls' teams have numbers issues based on player going to premier teams  
Important dates:  
July 10, 2008 – last date to accept travel roster spot w/o late penalty  
July 11, 2008 – begin calling players we have not heard from and late fee imposed

July 15, 2008 – “drop dead” date to accept roster spot  
August 4, 2008 – travel league entry form due to SWD  
August 18, 2008(?) – preseason training begins – waiting for field and coaching assignments from MKSE  
August 20, 2008 (?) – Ice cream social  
August 27, 2008 – CT Cup Tournament entry forms due to SWD  
September 2, 3 or 4 – MKSE orientation night at Long Lots  
September 7, 2008 – 1<sup>st</sup> week of games

Loren Benjamin - working w/ managers to revise manager handbook and manager training including scheduling training.

3. Program – Mickey Kydes  
Vowed to have more presence at Rec. games  
Fall Jamboree (?) – will follow up with Tara Brownlee  
Will arrange teams and assign coaches post July 15, 2008 drop dead date.
4. Referees – Robby Casey  
2 refs going to referee camp in RI and WSA will pay tuition  
Will have a push this fall to get the ref. mentoring program up and running  
Certification process for Grade 8 refs will be online this year with only 1-2 classroom sessions
5. Fields/Scheduling – Mary Jane Liu  
No report
6. Equipment – Larry Berman & Wes Malowitz  
No report
7. Special Events- Tara Brownlee  
Requested input on top two events for the year  
Will coordinate with MK for fall jamboree  
Suggested a separate position as fundraising coordinator
8. Volunteers – Megan Loffredo  
In process of identifying where we need volunteers  
Future discussion item – do we want to mandate volunteerism as a requirement to have child in WSA  
MK – suggested having a specific age group responsible for certain events  
TB – proposed sending thank you notes to all volunteers possible with discount coupons or other discount cards

**Other Issues Discussed:**

Double Rostering – discussion tabled for later date

Revision of WSA By-Laws – Mike Byrne and Wes Malowitz tasked to revise WSA bylaws this fall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.