

Coventry Soccer Association
March 3, 2008; 7:30-9:30 pm
Coventry Community Center
Minutes

Present: Art Yarumian, Anne Dogon, Doug Peckham, Erin Guilmette, Chuck Branchaud, Mike Grattan, Robert Thomas, David Lavigne, Nancy Kent, Steve Marmas, Sue Faiola, James Kenney, Cindy Vigneau, John Lukowicz

1. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves who was at the meeting and their role.

2. Group Protocol and Expectations (Art Yarumian)

*Being on the board does NOT give you any kind of power, but gives you responsibility.

- ✓ Confidentiality: Discussion about being able to hold a meeting and speak openly. Also, if anything was said "in confidence" then those words should remain at the meeting.
- ✓ "Agree to Disagree": discussion about how we are all working toward the same goal; however, members need to agree to disagree. That's normal. We can still be productive as a group. Open communication: need to maintain open communication with each other and the members of CSA.
- ✓ Being a board member should have a certain sense of fun and fulfillment associated with it. To some extent, we should enjoy it - and there will be stressful times. When the stress becomes overwhelming, bring it to the rest of the board for help. If we can't resolve it - for the good of the league - then it may be time for that board member to resign their position and walk away. This shouldn't become another job.

*Unified we get a lot more done than divided.

3. Old Business

- ✓ Challenger Sports doing soccer camp this summer: 7/21/08-7/25/08

4. Priorities (Everyone)

- ✓ Art: SRI and CSA: Sent an email regarding "good standing" for the league and continuing board members.
- ✓ CSA paying invoice for insurance: sending payment to SRI
- ✓ Doug: Registration with SRI and Barbara L. for recreational and competitive players; online registration a possibility; discussion regarding League Organizer to upgrade to online registration.
- ✓ Defer discussion on buying a notebook computer for the league
- ✓ AYSO: Doug contacted Al Goes from East Providence to discuss any CSA obligations to AYSO. Art will take over with the follow-up to get a final answer.
- ✓ Securing open board positions
 - Appointed positions
 - *Registrar: Robert Thomas (vote; Yes)
 - *Director of Coaches: Jody Samuell (vote; Yes)
 - *Director of Referees: looking to ask Martin Yarumian
 - Elected Positions
 - *Vice President: nominated David Lavigne (vote- yes)
 - *Treasurer: was originally open due to Chuck Branchaud resigning; however, Chuck agreed that he would stay on if Cindy Vigneau (volunteer bookkeeper) would stay on.
 - Art: Motion to allow Chuck to finish his term for the following year, 2nd by ??: Vote- yes

5. Reports

- President- Art Yarumian
 - would like to get the boards "vision" for CSA
 - wants to get many more people involved with the day to day operations of the league, especially during the season
 - concentrate on training of coaches especially their communication skills toward parents, players and others
- Vice President: David Lavigne
 - Would like board to consider allowing spring teams to practice on CSA fields-people will look into it and ask landscapers especially people who seed lawns about the wear and tear of practicing that time of year
 - Willing to work hard to get fields up and running for spring and maintained for season
- Secretary: Anne Dogon
 - Asked about uniform company: Art gave Anne some SCORE uniforms and Bob will be giving her some materials which he picked up at the Soccer Expo
 - Anne will be getting a committee together to investigate a uniform for the fall season
 - Pictures- will be finalizing the details about company that was used last year: Catherine Hellman Photography
- Treasurer: Chuck Branchaud
 - Everything is up to date
 - Art pointed out that the budget was not approved at the AGM
 - Art: Motion to look over budget, come to the next meeting and have a vote- it will be on the agenda under "old business"
- Competitive Director: Doug Peckham

Opened with a statement about people coming forward to assisting him on the competitive committee and that he would willingly accept their support; however, he wanted to make it clear that being on the committee did NOT mean that "position" would give them some sort of advantage or status. He also suggested CSA securing younger people to serve on his committee, since board members already have enough responsibilities.

 - Doug presented a list of about 50 tasks that needed to be accomplished in a very short time period. Doug is asking for help in completing these tasks if we are able. A huge thank you to Barbara L. at SRI in getting the registration organized.
 - Priority is to get all Spring Competitive players and coaches registered; along with any game changes
 - Will be working with Director of Coaches to evaluate coaches this spring
 - Need to get fields set up for spring: Date chosen- 3/29/08 and 3/30/08; 8 am-12 noon
- Developmental Director: Mike Grattan
 - Would like to establish a "deadline" for all registrations
 - Would like to make sure there is an identified "field marshal" during the regular season
 - Has many ideas to get people involved- will share at next meeting
 - Someone suggested hanging up "Signs" around the town notifying residents of the registration dates
 - Flyers will go home through schools and preschools
- Boys Director: Erin Guilmette
 - Training is important to teach about communication and organization

- Girls Director: Nancy Kent
 - Wants to make sure that the fall season will be a U15 to match up with the state Kohl's Cup
- Coaches Director: Jody Samuell (not present)
 - Steve Marmas wanted to state that whenever Jody is ready to discuss training, he will be there to support him in any way possible
- Referee Director: Open
 - Sue Faiola is going to be our referee coordinator while Amy Grattan, our previous referee coordinator agreed to train her with this position
 - Someone stated that it would be a good idea to train the older children, then have them support the younger referees
- Registrar: Robert (Bob) Thomas
 - Dates: 3/29/08-3/30/08; 8am-12 noon- Fish Hill Complex
4/26/08-4/27/08; 8 am-12 noon- Coventry Community Center
 - *If community center is not available then the location will be moved to Fish Hill Complex
 - Will not be ready for online registration this year
 - Will work on updating registration form
- Committees
 - Concession Stand Committee- will contact Lisa Tomasso about coordinating for this year; would like for a group of people to be trained to be in the stand on a rotating basis throughout the season
 - Fish Hill Complex Set-up: would like a group of people to be trained to set up the complex each Saturday to start the day- parking lot, trash cans, fields (as needed), etc.

**The main theme throughout these reports: We need people to get involved. We believe if we reach out to people to do specific tasks, they will volunteer.

6. Goals for 2008 (open discussion)

These issues were themes throughout the evening and further discussion will take place at the upcoming meetings to create the vision for CSA.

- ✓ Communication with members
- ✓ Parent involvement
- ✓ Training: coaches, parents, referees
- ✓ Fields

7. Board member contact information (Anne)

- Board members listed contact information
- Steve Marmas will get the web email addresses up and running shortly
- Discussed idea of having voicemail- no decision was made

Adjourn: 10:00 pm