



Ocean State Soccer School - Board Meeting Minutes May 10th, 2011

Present: John Montanaro, Keb Brackenbury, Pat Corso, John May, Jenn Gallagher, Chris Runci, Bill Gallagher, Rosemary Stitt, Dave Covell

Not present: Jeff Wadovick, John Resendez

Meeting began @ 7.40pm.

1. Minutes from the prior board meeting (April 12th) were reviewed – a motion to pass was proposed by John May and was passed unanimously. One clarification was that the Director of Technical Training (whose salary was approved at the last meeting) is to be paid quarterly based on his starting date – Jeff will work this out with John Montanaro.
2. President's Report
 - SRI Waiver Meeting Results – SRI convened a special meeting on April 27th at OSS' request, to hear our appeal to the earlier refusal to waive exceptions to the SRI Community Rule. The vote at the end of the Special Meeting was 16-10 in favor of OSS, in large part because of Chris' letter to the SRI board and associations prior to the meeting and his follow-up discussion at the meeting. Consensus was we should be under no illusion that any waivers will be approved next year, however if we do have unavoidable exceptions to the Communities' Rule we should request waivers as soon as possible to avoid any uncertainties about team formation. John Montanaro said he will work with SRI to forge a new Community Rule (consensus seems to be that the Blue and Rhody teams should be allowed to have players from multiple communities). Chris advises that SRI already have a rules committee looking at this issue, which he'd tried to be part of.
 - **Next board meeting – Wednesday, June 8th.**
 - **AGM: Monday June 27th**
 - Randy Jones has been appointed head of Varsity Coaching at NKHS.
 - When members raise comments at board meetings (particularly contentious issues) in the interests of reverting with a well researched and considered response, the board should take questions/points and should discuss at a later stage before responding. John reminded that the board should also be sure to consistently support one another, particularly given that not all facts may be clear to all when members' comments are initially presented. .
3. Registration Report – final count for spring is 548 rec. players and 375 competitive players.
4. Treasurer's Report – we need to a) compare the original budget for this year to actual to identify areas of variance & b) better define sources of income and expenditure (related to this, the proceeds of fundraising have to go into separate account so we know precisely what we raised, and will also have a record of how funds were subsequently allocated). Everyone here should be thinking about budget needs for next year – John will set a meeting to discuss and define the budget.
5. Member Comments – no comments



6. Old Business

- Photographer – following picture day on April 30th there was positive feedback from both coaches and parents – the photo team was very organized; did retakes as necessary and importantly, got teams to their games to schedule. Possible drawbacks are that a) they didn't have a background and b) didn't include an OSS banner or logo. Before making a decision about whether to keep the same company for next year we do need to see the pictures and ensure they're a quality product.
- College Scholarship Committee Results – we had a total of 8 applicants for scholarships, all of whom are NK seniors with past or present affiliation with OSS. The application focuses on 3 areas: i) academic achievement (25% of points); ii) extra-curricular activities/volunteerism (25%); iii) an essay (50%) focused on what they'd learnt from their experience at OSS and how this in turn enabled them to share their benefits and help others in the community. The scholarship committee assigned quantitative scores to each application and concluded that 6 of the 8 applicants were worthy of an award. The recommendation was that each of the 6 receives \$500 each. The motion was proposed to approve \$3000 for the aggregate award (this was increased from the previous total of \$2000) – the proposal was seconded and unanimously approved.
- Telephone voice box – Rosemary will periodically check for messages.
- Web-site - John May requested that the Revolution logo be taken off our website - Dave Covell will follow-up and will also make sure that all of the OSS logos on the site are the same.

7 - New Business

- Director of Safety – John Montanaro nominated Bill Gallagher to this position for the rest of the term – seconded by Keb and passed unanimously.
- Competitive Tryouts – discussion around this issue: our policies and procedures don't specify when we have to schedule try-outs. Chris made the point that if we're intending to use SRI as independent evaluators again, we're not sure if they're available after school starts; in addition, SRI took 4 or 5 weeks getting back to us last year which means we could be really squeezed for time, particularly given the known problem of the Communities rule and waivers. Given all of this, Chris is therefore leaning towards having try-outs in June (when we know SRI is available). John May added that other clubs have try-outs early and parents favor early try-outs to have the assurance that they're kids are on a team; from the club's side it also means that the kids are committed (Dave Covell agreed). The counter-argument (John Montanaro) was that try-outs in June create a lot of problems – kids need a break; June is a long time ahead of when the spring season starts; from our side September allows much more time to prepare (June is obviously very close prior to which there's the Fathers' day tournament) and in addition, since Premier try-outs are scheduled in mid-August, those kids who didn't make premier will be available and committed in September (as well as those who didn't make school teams). John also added that when we had June try-outs previously, it was just for the older kids since U8s and U10s tried-out in September. John further commented that if we have a third party (i.e. SRI), it's an independent assessment that pressure off Chris and the coaches. John May added that we need to decide on June or September soon and get in on the web-site. Final comments from Chris were that i) since U14, U16, Junior and varsity players will be very hard to get to after Sept, maybe we should consider try-outs for that age group sooner and ii) since we probably won't know



changes to the community rules at the time of try-outs, it's imperative that we tell the parents up front that we can't be certain their child will be on a team even if selected by OSS.

7. Monthly Reports

- DTT – John Resendez sent his report – there's a free clinic on 14th May from 1-2pm for U6, 7 and 8 with Kyle Froberg participating. Is looking to organize a winter indoor tournament at West Warwick Civic Center – would be beneficial to our teams as they'd get some practice in plus, they wouldn't have to travel so far (the previous tournament there, run by Jim Kelly, no longer takes place. John May said he could get his referees. John Montanaro added that this would be good move for us (and also it wouldn't be subject to the community rules).
- Referee Report – first class is in July and 15 kids are registered so far; will also run a recertification class in August. 20 registrations for camp so far; shirts need to be ordered; every kid in comp division will get a daily evaluation and report card; rec. kids will get a brief report.
- Equipment – nothing to report. However Pat commented that we need to continue the line of pines at the back of the front field since there is currently a large space that means kids are running to go into the parking lot to retrieve balls (obviously very dangerous) – John May stressed the need to tell coaches to instruct kids not to go into the parking lot. We only need around 10 or 12 trees to fill the space – Pat added that they're very fast growing (maybe good for a Scout or Senior Project).
- Safety – nothing to report
- Operations – the concession stand is running well (thanks to Jenn for stepping in when we need it) – we take in \$550-600 a week and have costs of \$250 on average. We could make a lot more if we cooked on the grill however given the lack of volunteers this would currently be a problem currently.
- Competitive – nothing more to add; Chris is going to look at a South Kingstown facility for possible winter training which has a good rate and may help alleviate some of the pressure we had this winter. For Nashua, OSS will provide water and ice-packs; the DJ is all set; he's get an email out for a mass decoration of cars ahead of driving up. Will also organize a tail-gate for the Spain vs. US game
- Development - nothing
- Foundation – Doug – need to make sure that prices for signs around the field are consistent; concessions should be given for signs only if someone has done something kind for OSS in the past. Renewals for signs were not sent out this year although everyone with a sign posted currently has paid. Doug will set up a committee to focus effort on increasing sign subscribers.

Meeting adjourned – 9.12pm.