



Ocean State Soccer School - Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 12th, 2013

Present – John Montanaro, Marina Sweet, Peter Merritt, Dan Legault, Rosemary Stitt, Mark Oliver, Jeff Wallace, Pat Corso, Joe Colangelo.

1. **Minutes** – October – approved as presented
2. **President's Report**
 - SRI District South Meeting – 11/21/13, 7pm – John Montanaro will attend plus anyone else who wants to attend with him
 - Field Closure - Pete, Mark, Dan (and children), Marina, Rosemary helped on the November 9th field closure day.
 - Jim Hummel Story – a short documentary on OSS will be on PBS; John wants to get publicity for it.
 - Board Holiday Get-Together – El Tapatio, 12/17 (Tuesday).
 - Thank you to donors / volunteers – have received some sizeable donations – Rosemary will write thank you notes (John to provide info, names and addresses)
 - SRI Volunteer of the Year – deadline is in January for nominations – Jeff will let us know the precise date – let's think about any suitable nominees.
3. **Registration Report** – Jenn – not present, but had a brief discussion about recent transfers – would be a good idea to get background on why players leave (call them so we can get some color?). Refunds – Jenn wants to pay refunds via checks since a) there's a fee for all credit card transactions, including refunds and b) then it's clear to the treasurer who's getting refunded.
4. **Treasurer's Report** – not available yet. Dan is looking at systems/processes and is fine-tuning the budget; Jeff will continue to process expenses but let Dan know; Dan will take a higher level approach for the time being; Dan's goal is to eventually take over the entire function. We're still pushing for tax-exempt status which has to be formally announced by the town of NK prior to taking effect.
5. **Members' Comments** – N/A
6. **Old Business**
 - **Sponsorships** – Pat will form a committee to spear-head ensuring renewals & tracking or expiring/expired sponsors. Deadline for new sponsorships will be February 10th.
 - **Memorial for John Montanaro III** – John and his wife would like a memorial sign – possibly at the corner by the sign or in the back-field by the gazebo - could get the foundation established in his son's name to donate but either way, there's be no cost to Ocean State. There was also discussion about replacing the tree at the existing memorial in the front field (potentially in April of 2014) since the original tree died some time back.



7. New Business

Academy sponsorship – Joe raised the idea of having separate fundraising and sponsors for the Academy (have 2 sponsors so far), however Pat disagreed on the basis that costs should come out of a “global” budget, thus eliminating the possibility of there being “academy equipment” vs. other OSS equipment, which could potentially result in disputes over use.

Communications – there was general discussion around issues with communication in the competitive side of OSS – reference was made to:

- 1) complaints from some parents of a U10 boys team relating to both i) uncertainty on who would be coaching the team on a go-forward basis since following the original Challenger coach having to leave the US due to visa problems, the parents understand that his replacement, Joe Medcalf, is only available through the end of December & ii) inadequate communication from OSS’ competitive side around the above situation;
 - 2) delays in relaying scheduling of practices at WWIS (which resulted in coaches being uncertain as to what space would be available to them and when) and
 - 3) the perception that some teams/coaches were at an advantage vs. others vis-à-vis scheduling preferences, related to which, it’s unclear why a U14 girls’ team practices at Toray while all other teams have space at WWIS.
- The **board approved** John to contact Bob Jones to request that Bob clarifies at the next board meeting:
 - 1) A Communication plan;
 - 2) Remediation for the U10 boys’ team referenced above;
 - 3) Clarity on allocation of practice space for all competitive teams.

8. Monthly Reports

- **Development** – (Jeff) - Give Back Saturday was a huge success; the **board approved** reimbursement of signage/decals for Give Back Saturdays in future seasons. The **board approved** continuing SoccerRECYCLE’s free sponsorship and also to give the same to Kick Out Hunger (the food drive) – both will continue until such time as one or both are displaced by paying sponsors. The Wallace family has taken over organizational responsibilities for SoccerRECYCLE from the Layman family albeit the Layman family will continue to support the program.
- Cross-over games were scheduled with teams from both of EG and Warwick during the fall season. The EG games went very well however the Warwick games fell through; further cross over games will be scheduled in the spring.
- **Referees** - (Mark) – presented an overview to the board of the totals of games refereed during the course of the fall season (in both Rec and Competitive), with totals for each referee, which showed both center ref and AR assignments. Also ran through the season’s award winners, each of whom received a Movie Gift Card:
 - Dan Dresselhouse - Best Referee



- Cam and Ansley Ostiguy - Most games officiated
- Colin Merrit - best feedback from coaches / parents
- Hannah Boldt - Last game of the season
- Mark also noted that due to a strong roster of OSS refs, he only had to go off-list twice.
- **Operations** (Pete) – the fields have been closed; a lot of bushes will need to be cut back in the spring; the concession stand has been netting \$200 a week.
- **Foundation** (Pat) – another new sponsor was recently signed-up. The board approved replacing the Ally’s sign at no cost (Ally’s has been a loyal sponsor for a number of years and their sign need to be replaced).
- **Equipment** (Marina) – there are uniform/numbers problems for players who weren’t playing in the fall (pertains to the U16 girls team in particular). Marina needs to be able to make command decisions on uniform/numbering issues since otherwise her time can be wasted when she’s worked on things only to then have situations then upturned.
- **Training** (Joe) – academy winter training – fees are \$175; uniform is \$50 – has 57 kids signed up, with a further 12 thinking of signing up, however needs to get field space straightened out/ Has 4 teams in WWIS’ session 1; all 65 shirts are covered by corporate sponsors; Joe has also asked for \$15,000 from Cardi’s to send kids to the Disney Classic (John pointed out that participation in an out of state event would require board approval); but needs goalie training.
- **Competitive** (Bob) – not present
- **Safety** (Bill) – not present

9. Meeting Adjourned