



Granby Rovers Soccer Club

Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2010

Opening:

A regular meeting of the Granby Rovers Soccer Club was held at 7:00 PM on April 1, 2010 in the Granby Board of Education building. Attendees included:

U09 Boys - Kelly Dimeo
U10 Boys - Deb Ranicar
U11 Boys - Jeff Holden, Shawn Bendig
U12 Boys - David White, Terri Ziemnicki, Kelly Rome
U13 Boys - Pat O'Donnell
U14 Boys - Becky Sielman

U9 Girls - None present
U10 Girls – Maureen Schultheis, Heather Tweeddale,
U11 Girls – None present
U12 Girls - Erick Holm
U13 Girls – None present
U14 Girls - Matt Wutka

Others present: Dave Emery, Mary Hunt, Karrie MacDonald-Shtekler

I. Minutes

March minutes approved. Thanks to Heather Tweeddale for taking the minutes and distributing them.

II. Treasurer's Report (Linda Holden)

Linda Holden absent. David White reported that she previously sent out information regarding tax info. Taxes were taken care of, assessments have been sent out. Shawn Bendig has portable potties being delivered to the Rovers field this weekend.

III. Registrar's Report (Terri Ziemnicki)

Terri has all rosters for all teams. There are a couple of little glitches with HS boys and girls teams that they are fixing. Terri got an email that several people haven't done back

ground checks. The list seems to be discrepant and Terri advised that she would call out the names of those reported as not having had a background check and asked those who were present to advise if they should not be on the list.

David White is going to contact Bruce, the district registrar as the CJSA list differs from Terri's list as well.

Terri will email Bruce with known discrepancies and David White will get an updated list from CJSA.

IV. Coaching Director's Report (Dave Emery)

Dave reported that he was extremely impressed with drop in formats. He advised that the real need was not too difficult to fill and that the kids were so positive about it.

Dave recommended that we attempt to recruit all ages for drop in soccer and suggested that we have one night at Salmon Brook Park as drop in night. He mentioned the added bonus of developing kids towards becoming organized coaches.

V. Boys Coaching Director (Becky Sielman)

Becky advised that she had a great first month on the job. She reached out to coaches on boy's team and asked that if any haven't spoken to her to please get in touch with her so she could speed up the plans for spring.

Becky commented on what has emerged that the Board may want to consider. She mentioned that there appears to be a reoccurring theme about managing the number of boys on a team. Not be selective in try-outs, however; she thinks it's worth discussing one more time what the number of kids should be on a team before making cuts. She suggested that we should decide how many teams in each age group we should have because there appears to be too much friction when too many kids to have a beneficial team.

Mary Hunt advised that doesn't have quantity issue in the girl's area however has quality where some girls shouldn't be playing because fear of injuries or lack of skills/interest.

David White suggested that we have some basic expectations or minimum standards that we need to draft which will help alleviate this concern. Some players are lost, and it appears to be more of a social night for the girls. Dave Emery will be late but can help with suggestions.

Kelly Rome suggested doing something now.

Becky again mentioned that if you are forced to carry 16 on a small team, it's a lot of kids to manage and to get equal playing time.

If numerical guidelines were reduced a bit, Becky thought that kids will have a better chance of remaining interested.

Eric Holm spoke to parents. Not all kids are going to every game. His thought is to hold assessments and ask questions. Some kids don't seem to have interest. Kids that are excelling at such a young age are doing it from a passionate point of view and get off the bus and kick the ball around in their yard. It appears as if some of these kids are forced to play. He will put the bug in the parent's ear if players seem not interested. He would like to be able to develop kids that want to play.

David White did suggest that conversation needs to take place with parents. He also mentioned that he thought that if child comes off the bus and doesn't pick up soccer ball at age 8 or 9 that he thinks this is common and cautioned Eric to take this into consideration when speaking with parents.

Having a discussion with the parent ahead of time to explain Rovers expectations and the competitiveness of who we are will help.

Communicating in advance is Eric's plan.

A brief interruption to the meeting occurred which turned out to be a positive interruption. Sam Molinari showed up at the meeting unannounced and donated a slue of equipment. He lives at 37 Wells Road in Granby, Ct. His phone is 860-413-3652. He coached for many years in Simsbury. His kids are all grown now and he no longer has the need for the equipment. He mentioned to the Board that if there are any coaches interested in getting many coaching videos, or books, he has several which are far better than the library. If any coach is interested, he also has game chalk boards. He asked that anyone interested should contact him directly and he'll gladly donate the videos, books and boards as well. He advised that he has videos and books for all ages from U8 to U18.

Terri mentioned that 8 year olds are still quite young to determine whether or not they are truly interested and cautioned Eric on how to handle the child. She mentioned that any coach can positively impact their children who appear too lost by your coaching abilities and capabilities.

Shawn Bendig doesn't think we should be so locked in to particular sizes of teams short of cutting kids there should be other measures such as minimal criteria. We should have guidelines that parents can read to see if their children meet the criteria.

David will discuss minimum standards with Dave Emery and will come up with something. David encourages everyone to have more kids because not all kids are going to make all practices or games.

Pat O'Donnell commented that most problematic scenario for him came from boys that were under aged that play with the older boys because we do grade specific and not age specific. His team is very large with under aged boys that started too soon. Most towns formulate teams by grade and not age.

Becky has a few elite clubs such as University of Hartford to come and coach a couple of practices. She asked that if anyone knew of any college player, etc. that wants to coach a practice, to please invite them to come.

VI. Girls Coaching Director (Mary Hunt)

All quiet. The U13 girls now have a manager and she has recruited enough girls for the fall.

VII. Website (Kelly Rome)

Sent email distribution for everyone to look at and verify info. She has a list of registrants for spring and clinic.

Not a lot of participants who signed up for spring clinic which helps Rovers pay for things like Mohegan sun. Kelly will send out a reminder from the website to all Rovers participants.

Kelly is scheduling time at library to train everyone on navigation through the website.

David needs to order equipment for clinic therefore Kelly will touch base with David on the 20th of April to verify number of participants.

Spring clinic should be posted in both the Granby News and the Drummer again.

Registration for fall is May 1st because tryouts are in May and June. Fall registration deadline was suggested for May 21st.

VIII. Field Maintenance (Shawn Bendig)

Shawn advised that he sent an email this afternoon regarding practice schedule which appears to be set. Another email was sent that all town fields including Rovers are still not approved to play on. Ahrens and Salmon Brook are not open for play. He advised that spring clean up tentative dates were going to be either Saturday April 10th or the Sunday the 11th. Shawn mentioned that he didn't want to push to following week due to school vacation.

Need to align field with availability of water in the park. Need 15 gallons of water per 5 gallon pail times 6 pails. Ideally town will have water on and Shawn will discuss with Kay. Field conditions are good as Shawn went down today and walked the fields. Nice job of clean up with brush and limbs. There is now a clear site into woods. Requires more clean up on our part because there are still a lot of limbs and debris from brush work.

Goals looks great, sod good, and Shawn mentioned that kudos should go to Eric.

Shawn advised that we will have to relocate all goals because town moved to clear brush. CJSA sign is required and we are supposed to have 2 for every field and they are missing. Shawn asked David to see if he can get more. Shawn reported that we lost field liner Joe

Rondinone. The equipment we have, being only one machine is inoperable even with all of the repairs that were done.

Shawn has replacements field liners, his son and friend will be there every Thursday. The problem is equipment in current state isn't going to work.

Shawn thinks his brother in law can get hands on compressed air machinery. This is a 20 lb tank that drives the lines. He advised that he thinks we will require 2 units for a price tag \$900 each. He mentioned that a child could easily operate these. We would also have to get charged (compressed air) from a welding company.

The equipment does not have any moving parts nor does it does it require mechanically inclined operators. Shawn thinks we would only require one or two tanks of compressed air per season.

This suggestion for this new equipment is cheaper to operate and greener alternative to the gas powered that we've used in the past. It is al fairly maintenance free.

Shawn will circulate proposal. Karrie MacDonald-Shtekler works with a welding company and will see if she can get compressed air tanks donated along with refills.

David discussed relocating some bleachers to Ahrens Park closer to parking lot if in good enough shape and can be moved. Town football has expressed interest in bleachers to move to Ahrens Park.

Everyone is invited to Shawn parent's in Vermont for chicken BBQ and soccer game playing. Thank you Shawn and the Bendig's.

IX. Referees Report (Pam Hansen)

Absent

X. Vice President (Pat O'Donnell)

No new business.

XI. Old Business

- **Topic:**
First aid course attendees will be Rick Orluk, Matt Wutka, David White, Rob Miltenberger, Maureen Schultheis, Ann Marie Grashaw, Jackie Smith, Joe Yorrio, Paul Fritjofson, Eric Holm, and Pat O'Donnell. It will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday the 8th of April, 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, the 10th of April. Not mandatory for assistants, however highly recommended. Good for 2 years. Not CPR, just first aid.
- **Topic:**
Spring clinic - talk it up amongst teams.
Don't forget, coaches who went to Mohegan Sun Clinic need to be there on 1st, 8th and 5th of June. May 15th and 22nd is when UCONN is coming from 9-10:30.

- **Topic:**
Background checks required, get them done if you haven't
Ray Reid camp, get info out to teams
University of Hartford puts on a great camp at Westminster as well as goalie
camp
Need to meet again on bi-laws for Rovers Board Members

XI. New Business

- **Topic:** University of Hartford wants to hold a training clinic / session in April however we aren't sure if we will even be on fields yet in April.
- **Topic:**
We have a great fundraising opportunity that was presented to us which is the "Entertainment Book". We could sell them at the Pavilion. If we sell 500 books per season, we would make a considerable amount of money to help the Rovers.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M. The next general meeting will be on May 6th, 2010; at 8:00 p.m. Granby Board of Education Building.

Minutes submitted by: Karrie MacDonald-Shtekler

Approved by: