



BETHEL PARK SOCCER ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING – March 8, 2011



Bruce Thompson, Vice President of Bethel Park Soccer Association (BPSA) in the absence of Brian Gorges, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM in the Caucus Room of the Bethel Park Municipal Building. Board members present were: Kathleen Tischler, Scott DiGiorno, Matt Yee, Joe Reichard, Pete Huston, Maria Minshall, Rich Eckert, Jeff Marzina & George Toomey.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were distributed & reviewed at the meeting. Motion was made by Scott DiGiorno and second made by Matt Yee to approve the amended minutes & post to the website. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

- Steve Donovan was not present. No significant changes reported.
- Several spring sponsor checks were received.
- PA West team registrations were paid for \$760.50 with \$58 still to be paid.
- Pending expenses include Matt Scott for the ref training course and Kelly Melhalko for the coaches' training course.

President's Report:

- Bruce Thompson stated on behalf of Brian Gorges stated BPSA focus will be to the uniforms, fields, and referee coverage over the next few weeks prior to the start of the season.

Committees:

Registration -

- 14 teams: 12 returning/combining teams, 2 new teams, 4 returning teams merged into 2 new teams. Two returning u12 girls into one team & u13 and u14 girls into one team.
- 204 players: 155 returning players & 49 new players
- Total cost to register with PA West = \$760.50
Initial registration: 1 team plus 31 new players = \$474.50
Larry Shaw's team: 1 team plus 14 new players = \$228.00
Outstanding still owed to PA West: 3 players for Larry Shaw and 1 for Dan Saffer = \$58

Communications -

- No report

Risk Management –

- KidSafe applications are still awaiting final clearances in a number of cases and submissions in a few cases as we approach the final weeks before the season.
- Follow up between Matt Scott and Kathleen Tischler will take place to ensure clearances for referees who are 18 years or older who now need clearances through KidSafe per PA West.
- Reminder message regarding first aid supplies as well as paperwork (Code of Conduct, PA West insurance & emergency contact info) will be send to coaches & on the flights side, we will rely on commissioners to communicate the message.
- Larger quantity of ice bags will be ordered for flights and distributed by Bruce Thompson.

Referees –

- Matt Scott stated the PA West in-house rec referee program hosted by PA West has been scheduled for 3/27 from 2 pm – 5 pm at the library. Assistance in communicating to potential participants was requested. Ref uniform will consist of colored tee shirts with BP Soccer on front and back.
- Additional communication will be made to get information out to refs regarding the last remaining ref course before the season begins.
- Suggestion made to email the list of flight refs each week to the flight commissioners for their information in the event any issues arise.

Travel Commissioner & Registrar –

- Two additional older teams were registered for the spring season with PA West, u17 boys coached by Dan Saffer and u16 girls coached by Larry Shaw.
- Scott DiGiorno reviewed numerous websites of other surrounding area clubs regarding travel tryout policies & procedures in selection of players for travel teams. Due to the time frame discussion of the matter should take place at the April meeting.

PR/Fundraising –

- Maria Minshall reported that solicitation of ideas from the board for potential projects to benefit from fundraising initiatives include a sprinkler system at Millennium, turf field at Park Avenue, concession/lock up facility at Millennium, and rebounding walls at Village Green and Ben Franklin.
- Discussion followed regarding possible events which included a casino night although yielding profitable results requires many volunteers to staff which could be prohibitive.
- As a follow up to the possible opportunity of using a snack trailer offered by BP Football, Maria Minshall discussed the duties & associated responsibilities as well as options for staffing. Discussion included the option of volunteers staffing and using that to subsidize the cost of uniforms or paying an opt out fee if a parent chose not to volunteer. The additional challenge of the multiple field spread throughout Bethel vs. BP Football, which has one location was raised. Bruce Thompson will facilitate contact with the BP Football snack trailer coordinator to gain further information as the opportunity is multi-faceted.
- Two grant opportunities are being examined for corporate sponsorships for the Millennium lock-up and further information will be provided and discussed at an upcoming meeting.
- Discussion of challenges BPSA faced with the cancelled golf outing took place.
- Additional fundraising options were discussed. Matt Yee suggested having player/parent games for a fee and bringing in refreshments. Other options include strip tickets based on the lottery for 50% proceed. The possibility of the annual calendar similar to Century was mentioned.
- Immediate fundraiser for this current spring season to launch the concept of fundraising within the organization was discussed. Due to tight time frame and short planning time available a raffle was suggested. Matt Yee recommended the purpose of the fundraising and benefits be very transparent and well communicated.
- Discussion then evolved into Maria Minshall's posing the question to the board as to when do we want to select our goal for BPSA's fundraising efforts. Determination of the specific goal itself, decisions regarding how it will be achieved, many small or limited large options to be utilized and time line were offered as items to be clarified.
- Field sponsorship of Millennium and Village Green including the signs on the fences was discussed including a question regarding proceeds of field sponsorship fees.

- BPSA team sponsorship was discussed. Option of travel team sponsorship was discussed, as this past year was the first that all flight teams were sponsored. Currently two travel teams have a sponsor, which is Larry Shaw, and players received a second team shirt as a result of sponsorship.
- Maria Minshall recommended banners or web ads on new website for increased visibility & web presence as sponsorship option. In addition, she suggested increased advertising of sponsors with a more visible presentation of sponsors at public events.
- Kathleen Tischler recommended increased contact with current sponsors to further increase chances of renewal for subsequent years via a letter to each sponsor. As a way to personalize the letter, team photo with "thank you" on it or signatures by team players would be eye catching & memorable come renewal time.
- Matt Yee recommended coaches' shirts with the sponsor names on them for increased sponsor visibility.

Flights –

- Bruce Thompson stated the master spreadsheets of players will be to the commissioners by March 9 and will be requesting team formation one week later in order to place orders for shirts. YES (Youth Elite Soccer previously NASC) will be providing coaching as indicated in our agreement although coaches may not be same individuals from the fall season.
- Flights 2, 3, and 4 experienced drops in registrations due to baseball but it did even out in the numbers due to adds from football. We had 198 new for spring and 338 back from fall. No late registrations were accepted.
- Flight 5 format will be smaller training groups moving round robin style among coaches. Game format will be teams formed from total group & four colors of pinneys will be ordered by Brian Gorges to use in games. High school players may be assisting.
- Bruce Thompson will coordinate the pick up of 50/50 flight proceeds the same as last year.
- Flight player trophies and gifts to be determined at the next meeting.
- Discussion of unacceptable coaching methods exhibited in Flight 4 boys was brought to the board by Flight 4 commissioner. If coach returns this spring, Flight 4 commissioner will address inappropriate & unacceptable behavior with said coach prior to season and monitor situation closely.

Fields –

- Field Coalition meeting took place and Brian Gorges attended on behalf of BPSA.
- We will retain the same time slots as last fall. Some time will become available on Sundays at the high school until fields open up, which is not anticipated before April.
- Simmons Park under lights is not currently available due to softball; however, it may be an option in late April. Park Avenue will be available under the lights April and May.

Equipment:

- Rich Eckert stated uniform costs will remain the same for spring, \$25, with a price increase anticipated for fall.
- Uniform order to be placed by mid March. The u12 girls consolidated team that was newly formed this season will not be charged uniform fees.
- Bruce Thompson is checking the nets on the fields.

Community Liaison –

- No report.

Coaching Development –

- u10-u12 coaching course conducted by PA West will take place on March 26 from 9 am – 3 pm. This course includes classroom and gym time.
- Bruce Thompson to determine if a flight coaches' training session is needed based on the number of new coaches.
- MLS/NASC is now Youth Elite Soccer (YES) & will be providing two coaches for the upcoming season. We will also be fully utilizing Larry Shaw who will be returning to round out our coaching staff.
- Kelly Mehalko is completing the flight manuals for flights 1, 2, and 3 and will provide.
- Pitt Shoot to Score will be 7/18-22 at Village Green.
- Riverhounds will be returning also with an evening camp 6/20-23.
- Kelly Mehalko is currently revising the flight manual for flight 1, 2, and 3.

Old Business –

- Joe Reichard met with Chuck Stover from the Rec Department and presented our plan regarding the new website. Chuck Stover was in agreement and BPSA will be paying them by count of players at the end of each registration period. An engagement letter was signed and delivered to Blue Sombrero. Our merchant account is currently being created. Payments will be withdrawn from our bank account monthly and we need to proactively ensure the balance is covered. The same URL will be used. We will need to notify parents that there will be no in person registration with the launch of the new website. The Chronicle deadline is approximately 3/15 – 3/30 and no registration form will be published. Bruce Thompson to communicate to commissioners who will in turn need to advise parents.

New Business –

- Matt Yee received an email that Flight 5 needs coaches and reached out to Mike Galietta. He responded that fall would be a better time. Bruce Thompson will be reaching out to Larry to check on possible candidates.
- Parking lot situation may require us to stagger flights and will be evaluated.

Upcoming Dates:

- PA West Coaches' Training course March 26.
- PA West in house ref training March 27.
- Board meeting April 12, 2011.
- Shoot to Score camp 7/18 – 22.
- Riverhounds camp 6/20 – 23.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jeff Marzina & a second was made by Joe Reichard. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8 55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted
Kathleen Tischler, BPSA Secretary