

DRAFT-AYSA meeting minutes

Date/Time: May 6, 2015 6:45 p.m.

Location: Bangs Center, Lower Conference Room

Officer	Title	Present	Absent
Megan Rosa	President	X	
Ed Emilia	Vice President	X	
Yaniris Fernandez	Treasurer	X	
Kristen Andrews	Secretary	X	
Paul Bailin	At-large (travel director)	X	
Victor Ortiz	At-large (travel director)	X	
Keith Payne	At-large (rec. director)		
Jodi Brush	At-large	X	
Krisztina Filep	At-large	X	
Vacant	At-large		
Vacant	At-large		

Additional members/employees present:

Pippa Comfort – parent/coach
Moe Mooney – program manager
Dennis Gecko – parent/coach
Kevon Isa – Director of Coaching

Minutes from last month need to be disseminated and are a partial record of what occurred.

Treasurer's report reviewed

Discussion of meeting schedule. We will resume monthly meeting but periodic meetings can be missed when the agenda is light. Meeting will be the first Wednesday of every month but next meeting the meeting will be held on June 10. If a July meeting is held it will be held on July 15. If a meeting is held in August it will be on the 12th.

Discussion of what to do with camp scholarships. Motion to either give scholarships to DCF (6 for), kids on free lunch (1 for), split the scholarship between the two (3 for). Scholarship to be given to children in DCF foster care.

Discussion of rec coaching issues. There are not enough coaches to cover rec. and there are weeks when there are no coaches available at all. Parents are expressing frustration. Suggestion that coaches

pair up. Suggestion to tap into local colleges. Suggestion to lower the cost for parent coaches. Suggestion to do a pre-season information session. Suggestion to do a registration day. Agreement to focus on the current season and to couch discussion of greater changes. 4-5 coed rec is the only team that currently doesn't have a coach. Coach Isa will send an e-mail to the parents and will coach until a replacement is found from the parent group or an external source. Suggestion to send a stronger message out that this is a volunteer program. Suggestion to have coaches agree to the dates before the season begin. Discussion of a coaches' web page. Discussion of whether or not coaches know who to inform when they will not be present for a game and then coaches' responsibility to find a sub. Discussion of improving communication overall.

Travel is going well. New training program seems to be going well (kids play rec but train with travel) but is not without its challenges in terms of having a lot of kids to train. Discussion of where to cap the number of players and how kids become training players.

Discussion about travel tryouts. Proposal to use the end of training weeks with Coach Isa at the regular training times to hold tryouts. Tryouts not to compete with UMass or Western United. May 27, 28, 29 proposed provided that there are no conflicts with school events.

Travel coaches have asked for a change in policy re: keeping the roster open to any kids if the roster isn't full. Coaches are requesting that we not have kids playing on travel unless they are "travel ready" if the numbers permit. Parents have a mixed response to this request. Arguments for and against were discussed. Motion to change the policy to have kids who are not ready to play travel to not automatically make the team even if there is room at the upper end of the roster. Behavioral issues and good sportsmanship will be taken into consideration. DOC and coaches will share in the decision making. Motion passed unanimously.

New shirts are a big hit. Good feedback about registration process. Suggestion to have home and away uniforms for travel. Membership agreed.

Request for a field and equipment manager out of the board members. Victor Nunez has agreed to handle this.

Community Preservation Association Committee may have monies available for improvements if a proposal is written with a focus on safety. Request for a board member to explore this further. Moe Mooney will be taking this on.

Coach appreciation will be June 13th at Potwine.

Executive Session

Camp fliers will be given to the director of travel and the director of rec for distribution to all of the coaches and then all of the kids.

No new news on the Chris Streeter situation. He hasn't paid. In August, if he hasn't paid, he can be charged criminally. Options will need to be discussed if there is no payment or police response.

Discussion of DOC position. Isa has been given his evaluation and there has been improvement but he is not meeting all of the expectations clearly outlined for him. Coach Isa has discussed dropping Rec. concerns about the level of training that the kids are getting under his coaching.

UMass men's soccer team has a proposal to take over the DOC position and assist with other aspects of AYSA

Kidz Afrik also has a proposal

Subcommittee to be formed to explore these options. Subcommittee to include director of rec, directors of travel, President, VP and all other available board members.

Discussion about UMass not using AYSA as a means of recruiting for FC.

Motion to record that the sense of the board is that we would like to discontinue Isa's contract with the intention of replacing him as DOC. He will be given notification by June 15. The board voted unanimously in favor of not renewing his contract if at all possible.

Meeting adjourned 9:13 p.m.