

D.C. Stoddert Soccer Board Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2005

I. Financial Report

Bob Hartheimer presented a financial report showing both profit and loss for 2004 versus 2003, as well as a balance sheet and profit and loss data through the end of February 2005. The report showed our income exceeding our expenses to date in 2005, but Bob noted that our revenues all come in before the season begins, while our expenses are spread throughout the year. Bob noted that the revenues and expenses so far this year are in keeping with the budget projections.

II. Fields Report

There was considerable discussion about concerns over fields and the process of allocating fields, as well as the timing of when we get permits for our fields in light of when fields must be specified to each of the travel leagues.

The Board agreed that Stoddert should try to start the process earlier and work further with DC Rec to obtain permits as soon as possible.

Charlie Myers noted that he expected to have all the Spring permits by March 17-19 and would be putting together a grid of available field times this week.

III. Administrator's Report

Tom Gross reported that Stoddert has a new registrar in Mingo Roberts, a graduate student and soccer player and coach who is working full time on registration issues and providing tremendous assistance to commissioners in putting together rosters and tracking down missing or incorrect registrations.

In terms of registrations, Tom noted that as of March 2nd, we had 4118 players registered for the spring season, which is down (approximately 650 players) from the final registration in the spring of 2004, and below final registration in the spring of 2003 (4575 players in Spring 2003). Tom thought we were likely to get in another 300-400 registrations. He noted that the new U-5 division has more than 300 players in it and could take up to 350, but that the other younger divisions were full and we have very little field capacity to expand them. There is room in the junior high and high school divisions for additional teams and players.

Bob Hartheimer noted that we need to watch these numbers carefully since the budget presumes registration levels above 4118. Others noted the need to do more reaching out to attract new players, particularly in the Hispanic and minority communities.

It was suggested that it works better to solicit teams rather than individual players and that Stoddert could put together a flyer (in English and Spanish) on how to put together a

team, what services Stoddert offers to assist volunteer coaches, how to register kids as a team.

The Board then discussed a proposal to do the Kidsafe registrations that are required of all coaches and assistant coaches on line through Demosphere. The cost of switching to on-line Kidsafe registrations would be a \$500 start up cost and then a 50 cents per application. Bill Garcia expressed concerns about the security of the system and whether personal information (including social security numbers) should be put into this system. The Committee voted to approve moving to on-line Kidsafe registrations, subject to Bill Garcia's investigation into the security of personal data on the Demosphere system.

IV. Jelleff Events

Melinda Roth then outlined a series of events being put on by the Jelleff Boys and Girls Clubs at which significant Stoddert participation would be welcome: The Jelleff Sports Ball on April 7th, the Greater Boys and Girls Club dinner on April 20th with Tim Russert; the Boys and Girls Club Golf Tournament on May 25^h and the Boys and Girls Club Kick Off at the Washington Design Center.

V. Travel Report

Kate English outlined the plans for the new U-8 weekly clinic program, for kids possibly interested in travel or in getting greater skills to prepare them for travel. The clinics would be in addition to those weekly clinics for U9 and up open players. They will be run by Sona and Karen for a fee of \$125 per player for the 9 weeks of clinics.

Kate also discussed a possible collaboration with Velocity Sports Performance to work with Stoddert coaches and teams on injury prevention, CPR certifications and other educational endeavors to enhance our coaches knowledge and training in medical related aspects of sports injuries and conditioning.

VI. ODP Tryouts

Len Oliver noted that ODP tryouts will be on May 21st.

VII. Referees

Thom Heath discussed the difficulties with the FIFA certification course for training referees. There were considerable problems due to a change in the head of instruction and only 12 signing up for the course. The decision was to go ahead with the course but at the same time to work to encourage more parents or other adults to sign up to be referees and to develop an appropriate training course to get more parents and possibly college students into the pool of referees. Tom Gross was tasked with sending out an e-mail to all parents and with working with Thom and Mary Smith and others to reach out to the area colleges.

The Board then discussed whether Stoddert's pay rates for referees were competitive. Our current pay scale calls provide for payments of \$18 per game for U8 through U10; \$25 per game for U 11-U13 and \$42 per game for U14 and up. The Board determined to have a comparison of referee pay scales from other local leagues prepared to decide whether we need additional incentives such as bonuses for those who ref more than a certain number of games per season.

VIII. Other Business

Len Oliver outlined the dates for the upcoming coaches courses and noted that he is revising his coaches bulletins to include suggested drills or practices in each coach bulletin, as well as links to Better Soccer More Fun and other websites that have good soccer games and drills to look at.

DC UNITED—The Board then discussed and approved the purchase of the Fair Play Program, which will provide us with 20 seats (16 youth and 4 adult) for 18 games, so that we can sell the block of tickets to individual teams for \$150 (\$7.50 per ticket) to ensure that our revenue from the program is \$2700, to make the program better than “budget neutral.” The total cost of Fair Play Program is \$4,750 and we budgeted \$3,000 for DCU tickets in 2005. Tom Gross is to be in charge of determining which teams get awarded the block of tickets for each game.

IX. Future Meetings

Travel Committee—March 16
Open Committee—March 16
Executive Committee –April 6

At 9:30 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Jennifer Hillman, Secretary