

**DC Stoddert Soccer
Executive Committee Minutes
August 3, 2006**

I. Fields

A. Permit Updates

The DCPR permits have not yet been issued and there is considerable concern that permits may not be issued in time to load fields for the travel leagues. Charlie Myers then noted that the smaller fields loaded for travel games for the younger leagues (U9-U11) were Ellington, Hearst and Rays Meadows, as well as Carter Baron for Saturdays; that all the older travel games will be played at the Soccerplex in MD or at Fort Stevens. No Saturday fields were loaded for the older leagues.

B. UDC

Bob Hartheimer updated the committee on the status of the proposal to partner with two private schools in installing field turf and lights at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) at the field at Van Ness and Connecticut. Stoddert has been willing to commit substantial funds for the project in exchange for a 15 year use agreement with Stoddert getting guaranteed use of the field on soccer weekends and possibly some additional time during some weeks or evenings.

Bob noted that timing of the proposal was slowing down and that the Committee on Facilities of the Board of Trustees of UDC was in the process of examining the proposal. It was not clear when a final decision would be made by UDC on the proposal.

C. Fort Reno

The National Planning Commission was asked to review the plan; no issues were raised and the plan was approved. This means that all approvals are in to create a full size baseball field with a 300 X 180 soccer field in the outfield and a smaller soccer field in the NW corner.

It remained unclear whether any construction would actually occur at Ft. Reno this fall and whether Stoddert could use the fields at least for practices unless/until construction began.

D. Soccerplex

A number of issues surrounding the Soccerplex were resolved over the summer, with an amended lease from the county, the removal of certain game restrictions and other matters being resolved. The Soccerplex hopes to finish 3 more fields with turf and lights near the aquatic center.

Stoddert was able to renew its agreement for the fields it needs from the Soccerplex. There were some complaints about the quality of the maintenance on the fields and Dave Repka asked that coaches or managers let him know of specific problems with the quality of the fields at the Soccerplex.

II. Assistant Administrator/Registrar Hiring

There has been limited response to the notice that Stoddert is hiring a new registrar to take the position left vacant by Mingo Roberts departure in mid July. The board discussed a few of the candidates and resolved that Rick Gersten and others will work to put out additional requests on Craig's list and other forums to try to generate additional responses. The view was that we needed to find someone that could immediately pick up the administrative work of rostering and assisting with registration and with referee assignments, and that the ideal candidate would also be able to help with communications and/or marketing and fundraising during the less busy times of the year.

In the interim, Stoddert was appreciative of the work currently being done on a temporary basis by Darren Benton.

III. Stoddert 30th Anniversary Celebration

The Board discussed a variety of options to recognize and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Stoddert league. The uniforms the kids will be wearing this fall will note that the league was established in 1977.

The board then discussed options in terms of an event to mark the 30th year, noting that a number of goals could be achieved through an appropriate event: 1) community building within the Stoddert community; 2) political connections with city leaders; 3) fundraising; and 4) possibly commencing or hosting a grand opening for a field project.

The general consensus was to have the event focus more on Stoddert as a league and organization rather than on soccer itself, and therefore not to center the event around a DC United game. The consensus was to hold the event reasonably early in the spring soccer season when everyone was still engaged in soccer and to have a multifaceted event that included kids and families as part of the celebration.

Len Oliver agreed to outline some general ideas that could be presented at the September 14th board meeting.

IV. Scholarship Committee Proposal

Jennifer Hillman then presented a proposal from the scholarship committee that would involve Stoddert paying some of the additional expenses of travel soccer for those kids who receive scholarships from the league. She noted that the average income for the kids receiving a scholarship is under \$25,000 and that most of those families cannot afford the

additional expenses of uniforms, tournaments and team fees that are a part of the travel program. She noted that to date, Stoddert was asking all travel players, regardless of income, to pay \$100 per season out of the \$565 per season fee but that Stoddert had not been providing scholarship players with funds to pay the nearly \$800 in additional expenses per season to cover uniforms, tournament entry fees and travel expenses or additional team fees. In the past, most teams have been collecting funds from the other players to cover the expenses of their scholarship players, but the distribution of scholarship kids is not even, such that some teams have 3 or 4 scholarship players while others have none or only one. The non-scholarship players on the teams with more scholarship players are currently being asked to pay nearly \$400 to cover the expenses of the scholarship kids on top of the \$800 in fees for their own child.

The Board asked that the background papers be distributed to the executive committee so that the proposal could be considered at the next meeting.

V. Other Business

A. Strategic Plan for Open

Dave Repka noted his desire that Stoddert proceed with some professionally facilitated strategic planning, most likely to be done this winter. Dave Sarley noted that he has facilitators in his company that might be able to assist in the effort.

B. Legal Review

Dave Repka noted that Stoddert would be retaining legal counsel to look at a series of corporate governance issues to ensure that the league is running in a fully appropriate manner and is aware of any legal issues connected to its non-profit status and its current governance and employment structure, along with any liability issues, including director and officer insurance.

C. Open Committee Issues

The handbook for open play will be posted on the website with hard copies available to distribute at the coaches meetings taking place during the first week in September.

Practice fields are also going to be assigned during the first week in September. Play starts on September 9th.

VI. Executive Session

The Executive Committee then went into executive session to discuss personnel and performance matters.

Next Board Meeting: September 14, 2006