

**Minutes of the Stoddert Soccer Executive Committee**  
**November 3, 2004**

Attendees: Graeme Bush, Tom Gross, Dave Repka, Kate English, Len Oliver, Roger Mingo, Rick Gersten, Bob Hartheimer, Charlie Myers, Jennifer Hillman, Mary Smith, Allistair Gellatly, Pete Ryan

**I. Budget Discussion**

Bob Hartheimer presented a draft budget for discussion by the committee. The budget has been the product of extensive discussions with Kate English and others on the Travel side, Mary Smith, Tom and Alison on the Open side, and a number of others.

The Committee resolved that a small sub-group of the Finance and Budget Committee would meet in the very near term to review and amend the budget.

**II. Spring Fees**

The Committee also resolved that fees would not be raised for the spring season with the exception of the late fee, which would be raised to \$20 for late payment of open registrations. The Committee left open the possibility that if the further refinement of the budget projected a substantial shortfall in funds, then further consideration would be given to raising the fees for the fall season.

**III. Registration deadlines-registrations due by February 1**

Tom Gross presented the outline for registration process which calls for the registration system to open up for spring registration on November 12; for a broadcast e-mail to be send out to all

players who have registered in the last 3 seasons with a link to the registration site; for the registration process to be spelled out in the next newsletter slated to go out on November 20<sup>th</sup>; for a second e-mail to be sent on January 3<sup>rd</sup> with a reminder that late fees will start on February 1; that last chance post cards would be mailed to any unregistered players on February 15 and that registration would close on March 1, with individual commissioners of each league retaining the discretion to permit registrations after that basis with the approval of the commissioner. The first game of the spring season is April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Committee approved the above outlined schedule for the registration process.

#### **IV. End of the Season Awards**

The Committee discussed the need to get further nominations for each of the awards. Tom will send out additional e-mail to the league reminding them about the annual meeting and soliciting additional suggestions for our volunteer, coach and referees of the year awards. Also to be encouraged were nominations for positions on the Board.

#### **V. Annual General Meeting**

The annual meeting will occur on Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Tom will send out reminder e-mails inviting everyone to attend.

#### **VI. Referees**

Dave and Mary described the recent meeting with Dave Repka, Thom Heath, Kate, and Mary Smith to assess the referee program. The general consensus was that more needs to be done to re-energize the program and expand the pool of referees, both FIFA

certified and junior refs.

Thom Heath agreed to be more engaged in the communication and feed back with the referees to ensure that they know that we really need them to sign up to ref games and everyone acknowledged that we need Thom to be more engaged in communicating with the refs and with the club. Additional remedial training and more field work also needs to be done by Thom with the refs on the field. Thom was to do additional field sessions for FIFA refs as well.

On the junior ref side, the perception is that we have a good number of refs who have gone through the training system, but we need more communication with them to get them scheduled and present at games each week.

On the FIFA side, we have a shortage of refs. Mary and Kate were going to look into advertising on the local college websites/job sites, as well as possibly on larger internet websites to let people that we pay \$24/game to FIFA certified refs.

## **VII. Fields**

Charlie announced that it appears that DCPR has paid the amount they agreed previously to Turf Center for its work on DCPR fields.

Graeme and Charlie expressed continued concerns over the diminished hours and usage allocated to Stoddert for fields by DCPR, noting a 34% reduction. A narrative and description of specific examples of cutbacks in field permits will be prepared for use in discussions with Kathy Patterson, DCPR and others.

Tom announced that Montgomery County has decided to move to assigning practice fields to the league, with 60 hours of practice

space likely to be available. Tom was to ensure that we submitted the paperwork to obtain as much practice space as we can.

Kathy Patterson has agreed to get back to DC Parks and Recreation to push them to get permits to us early enough to load the travel field schedules.

Terry Lee is officially leaving DCPR.

Rick Gersten and Charlie Myers will be following up with DCPR on permits. Kate will continue to work for permits at Mt. Vernon. Rick West (AU soccer coach) has indicated a possibility of Stoddert getting some time at an AU.

#### **VIII. Teen Center at Jelleff**

The Executive Committee approved by acclamation the rental of the teen center at Jelleff for full time use by Stoddert.

#### **IX. Wilson HS**

Dave Repka noted that the draft use agreement has been sent around and a meeting with Wilson representatives will occur on the 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 with Dave, Len, and Tom attending. A series of e-mails have gone back and forth regarding the “exclusive use” of the field on 9 Saturdays and Sundays each season, with some concerns expressed regarding the fact that weekend football games could present some conflicts in the fall. Use of Wilson field for practice in the fall would have to occur after football practice and late in the season, it may be too dark to permit practices.

The USSF grant application is due December 1<sup>st</sup>.

The other source of funds for the entire program is the NFL, and no word yet from the NFL on the grant application pending with them.

### **X. Travel Director Report**

Kate presented her report on the Travel program, noting that she will continue to work to ensure that our best open players are encouraged to tryout in the spring, that good players continue to have an opportunity to move on to travel teams at every age and that we work to develop a strong cadre of coaches. One coach for a U-9 team has been let go and the process is starting to find a replacement. Further discussions will occur with the coaches and the travel commissioners regarding the A/B model of splitting the travel teams at each age level.

Kate also presented an outline for the online registration process for travel players. The bottom line goal of the outline was to have all travel players registered by Friday, December 17.

With that, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.