

DC Stoddert Soccer Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2005

I. Financial Report

II. Field Coordination Issues

A. Field Status

Dave Repka noted that the External Affairs Committee will be meeting in the near future to focus on long term strategic planning to obtain more and higher quality fields for Stoddert use. He noted that Rick Gersten is scouting the costs and other issues associated with obtaining field use for travel games at the Soccerplex. The Committee discussed the prospects for further developments at Jelleff and Jennifer Hillman was tasked with meeting with Greater Washington Boys and Girls Club chairman Bill Eacho to see what the level of interest might be in deepening the alliances in exchange for more committed access to fields, including Jelleff, with a possible reconfiguration with turf and lights and the removal of the infield.

Dave noted that we must plan now for the possibility that Ft. Reno may be taken off line in the fall, creating significant strains on the number of fields available to us.

B. Field Loading/Availability System

The Committee then discussed the need to develop a more comprehensive system for controlling field availability, particularly for make-up Travel games. Charlie Myers noted that whatever system is put in place must ensure some time and fields are held in reserve for Open teams to schedule make-up games.

There was considerable discussion about the current process of loading fields at WAGS, Stoddert, NCSL and ODSL and the difficulty of changing those times or fields once they have been loaded. ODSL requires that rain-outs be rescheduled within 72 hours of their cancellation and the current system does not easily permit travel commissioners or coaches to state definitely whether and which fields are available for any such make-up games.

It was agreed that Mary Smith would be asked to work with Charlie Myers, Tom Gross, Kate English, Roger Mingo, and Bill Garcia to come up with a grid that reflects all field availability and that one person at Stoddert be the designated official to make changes or additions to that grid to take into account make-up games for both Travel and Open.

C. Field Czars

The Committee discussed the need to ensure that both Travel and Open have field czars/commissioners for each of our fields and that we do a better job of ensuring that everyone sharing the same fields knows who their counterpart czars are and coordinates with them for the lining of the fields and placement of goals. Tom Gross was to make sure we had an up-to-date list of field czars and that we urge better coordination among all those using the fields.

Mt. Vernon field has been made available to Stoddert for limited use. Tom Gross, Kate English and the Travel Commissioners are to work out which travel games can and should be moved to that field and are to ensure that the Open teams have access to Mt. Vernon field as well.

D. Meeting with DCPR on April 19th at 6:00 p.m.

It was agreed that Charlie Myers should attend the meeting called by DCPR to meet with all stakeholders in DCPR facilities and fields and that we should update the various talking points about Stoddert's needs for fields to hand out at that meeting so that the basic facts about who we are, how many kids we serve, how much field space we need, what portion of our players are DC residents/taxpayers, etc. can be left with the DCPR officials in attendance.

III. Other Specific Issues

A. NCC –

Saturday, May 7th—The Open Division needs a field. Charlie will handle it.

B. Referees

The Committee then discussed the general shortage of referees, particularly for Open games in U-12 and up. It was agreed that those refs that have taken the referee course but have not yet been observed by Thom Heath would be permitted to begin refereeing at games and that Thom would be encouraged to get around to observe them on Saturday mornings. Tom Gross, Mary Smith and Thom Heath are tasked with continuing to work to expand our pool of qualified referees.

IV. Travel Coaches

Kate English then reviewed the interview process for the new travel candidates and the qualifications of each of the various candidates and the Executive Committee endorsed Kate's recommendations for the two new U-11 Coed Travel coaches and the two new U-11 Girls coaches.

V. Future Meetings

Dave Repka will schedule an External Affairs Committee meeting. Len Oliver encouraged the board to support the DC Scores events around the release of the film “The Game of Their Lives”.

The next board meeting will be on May 4th and DC Ward 2 Councilman Jack Evans has been invited to be the guest speaker.

At 9:45 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Jennifer Hillman, Stoddert Secretary