

DC Stoddert Soccer
Minutes of the Board Meeting of June 7, 2006

Attendees: Leon Rosenman, Mark Snyderman, Patricia Benton, Susan Hammond, Jeremy Metz, Jeff Mullaney, Chris Zehren, Gregg Robb, Pen Starke, Bob Hartheimer, Dave Repka, Emmanuel Tanner, Len Oliver, Jennifer Hillman, Bill Garcia, Cindy Dunbar, Dave Sarley, Charlie Myers, Tom Gross

I. Financial Issues

A. 2006 Budget Approval

Copies of the 2006 calendar year budget were distributed again at the meeting. These documents provided more detailed breakouts of every budget category than the budget drafts that were distributed and discussed at the prior Board meeting. Treasurer Bob Hartheimer and Patricia Benton reviewed the budget and answered questions about it, noting that the budget was built on the prior year's budget and actual expenses. The prior year budget had been the subject of a line-by-line review by the entire Executive Committee. The bottom line in the 2006 calendar year budget shows a small surplus over the course of the year.

The calendar year budget was adopted on a unanimous vote.

B. 2005 Audit

Bob Hartheimer then distributed copies of the recently completed audit of the financial statements for the calendar year 2005. Through this process, Stoddert received a "clean" audit report, with the auditors noting that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization and its change in net assets and cash flow. The audited financial statements show Stoddert to be in sound financial condition.

C. Moving to a Soccer-Year Budget

Bob Hartheimer then discussed a proposal to switch Stoddert's financial year to July 1-June 30th fiscal (or soccer) year basis rather than the calendar year basis on which the league has traditionally kept its books. The rationale for doing so is that fees are typically set for the soccer year — the bulk of the revenue is collected on a soccer-year basis and the bulk of the expenses (most notably travel coaches expenses) are set on a soccer-year basis.

Following further discussion, the Board approved changing Stoddert's budgeting system to a soccer year basis (July 1-June30th). Going forward, the expectation is that the budget for the upcoming soccer year will be distributed to the Board at the beginning of May for approval in June.

D. Budget for the Fall 06-Spring 07 Soccer Year

The Board discussed a proposed budget for the 06/07 soccer year, with Patricia Benton noting that the 06/07 budget assumes stable levels of Open registrations, some increase in costs from Demosphere, the purchase of upgraded computer equipment that will be networked for the Stoddert offices, resulting in a conservative budget for the upcoming soccer year.

Following some discussion, the Board resolved to take the new budget under advisement for formal amendment or adoption in September. Patricia Benton or Bob Hartheimer will inform the Board of the underlying assumptions in the key categories in the budget.

E. Creation of Fields Improvement Fund

The Board discussed the action of the Executive Committee in establishing a \$5 per player fee that will be added on to each player's registration (Open and Travel), beginning with the registrations for play this fall (06). These fees will be kept in a restricted account for use solely for improvement of fields. It is expected that this \$5 per player fee should generate approximately \$50,000 per year. Dave Repka noted that this represents the first increase in fees in 4 years and will serve to create a base of funds to be used to invest in appropriate fields projects. The field fee is not being used to otherwise balance the budget.

After some discussion, the Board approved the following resolution:

Resolved, that a "Fields Improvement Fund" be established which shall be used only for the maintenance, improvement, access to or acquisition of fields available to the soccer programs. Moneys in this fund shall be invested by the Treasurer in either deposit accounts insured by an agency of the U.S. government or obligations of the U.S. Government. No moneys shall be spend from this fund without the approval of a majority of the Board of Directors, meeting with a quorum.

Further resolved, that five dollars be allocated from each non-scholarship open player registration received from each season to increase the "Fields Improvement Fund";

Further resolved that a similar amount be transferred from each non-scholarship travel player registration received each season to increase the "Fields Improvement Fund."

The Board noted that funds from this Field Improvement Fund could not be spent without specific Board approval.

II. Fields and Field Projects

A. UDC

Bob Hartheimer then outlined a proposal to partner with two other institutions in DC to pay for the installation of a synthetic soccer field at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). The field would be located behind UDC's main campus at Van Ness and Connecticut. UDC would then give Stoddert and the two other institutions exclusive use of the this field at specified times that do not conflict with UDC's athletic programs. Stoddert would receive priority for use all day on Saturdays and Sundays during the Fall and Spring soccer seasons. The field would meet the specs of an NCAA soccer field. The use agreement term is still to be negotiated. The turf would be guaranteed for at least 8 years. The cost to Stoddert would be between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

The next steps in the process involve UDC Board approval, which could occur in late June. Proposals would then need to be finalized with the turf vendors and other costs for additional improvements would need to be finalized. Further details need to be worked out with the other institutions involved on the use agreement. If the project is approved, work could start in late Fall and be ready for the Spring soccer season.

The Board gave its approval to pursue the project through a committee of Stoddert's Board, to consist of members of the Executive Committee along with additional volunteers, Greg Robb, Jeremy Metz and Jeff Mullaney. This committee is to keep the Board informed of developments in the project and to report back on the final details, along with a recommendation on whether the final costs, terms and conditions, and the usage proposals are satisfactory to Stoddert.

B. Deal Junior High School

Jeff Mullaney then briefed the Board on discussions regarding the possible renovation and upgrading of the field at Deal Junior High School. DCPS is currently planning a major renovation of the school building itself, but has not planned for a significant renovation of the athletic field adjoining the school. Jeff, on behalf of Stoddert, has entered into discussions to build a coalition for a comprehensive renovation of the athletic field. This work would ideally include at least the civil works to flatten the field and correct drainage problems and, ideally, also synthetic turf. Very rough overall costs estimates were in the range of \$1.5 million to do all the work on the field. Jeff met with an architect who provided drawings for the renovation of the field, with proper boundaries and a layout that would include a baseball field and adequate space for a full soccer field.

The Board thanked Jeff for all his work on the project to date and urged him to continue to pursue the project, with any further details to be brought back to the Executive Committee for further consideration. The Board did not approve any expenditures at this time.

C. Other Issues

Charlie Myers had noted in an e-mail prior to the meeting that DCDPR has removed several fields from those usually permitted to Stoddert for use in the fall and that options will need to be considered to provide fields for all Open Division games, including the possibility of divisions doubling up, with one playing the mornings and the other in the afternoons, or perhaps playing some Open games on Sundays, or interleaving the divisions with some having every other Saturday off and lengthening the season time or possibly using fields in Maryland or DC that are farther away than fields we have traditionally used. The proposals were not discussed at this Board meeting but will be carried to the Open Committee meeting.

III. Other Issues

A. Open Rule Changes

The Board approved the two proposed changes to the rules:

1. To formally recognize the common practice of permitting the team that does not have the ball to substitute players on a throw-in if the team that does have the ball is making a substitution.
2. To formally prohibit appeals of a red card and the related one-game suspension.

B. Open Committee Matters

It was noted that there had been extensive e-mails prior to the meeting regarding coaching courses, sideline behavior and parent education about soccer rules and ethics. All of those matters were referred to the Open Committee, with the understanding that a process is needed to ensure that those parents who take referee training or other courses are put to use quickly.

C. Strategic Planning

Greg Robb outlined some of the basic issues at Stoddert that would benefit from professional strategic planning, including fields, appropriate parental involvement, volunteer development, and others. The Board agreed that additional work in this area to develop and implement sound strategic plans was something that should be pursued.

D. Legal Review

Dave Repka outlined the need for Stoddert to retain legal counsel to conduct a legal review of the league's operations. Given the size of the organization, Dave noted the need to ensure that Stoddert is in full compliance with all legal requirements for a non-profit organization and that governance procedures are consistent with the law and best practices. Dave estimated the initial

budget for such a review to be about \$5,000. The Board approved obtaining a legal review of the league.

E. Need for New Registrar

After serving Stoddert extremely well as our registrar and providing assistance with all registrations, rosters, referee assignments, and other matters, Mingo Roberts is leaving effective July 14. The Board noted the need to hire a strong replacement as soon as possible in order to provide an orderly transition. The job announcement is posted on the website and Tom Gross was also going to send it to all Stoddert families.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: August 3, 2006

Next Board Meeting: September 13, 2006