

**DC Stoddert Soccer
Minutes of Meeting of the Board
June 5, 2008**

Attendance: D. Repka, D. Sarley, R. Hartheimer, J. Hillman, L. Oliver, G. Robb, W. Garcia, E. Glick, E. Fredell, C. Merriam, T. Gross, K. Samsot, W. Anderson, M. Reingruber

I. Fields

A. Premier Partnership with DCPR

The Board discussed the prospects of entering into a Premier Partnership with DCPR whereby Stoddert would provide funds and possibly other resources to DCPR (such as uniforms) in exchange for better access to better fields. The Board unanimously agreed to begin consultations on such a partnership agreement, with the understanding that such an agreement could be small and limited to a few fields or could become much larger and encompass the notion of a “home” with office and club space adjacent to fields. As part of this initial commitment, DC Stoddert will purchase and provide for DCPR’s own soccer program a set of soccer jerseys with Stoddert’s logo (cost of up to \$4,000) and will commit up to \$50,000 for the renovation of Ft. Stevens and Hearst.

B. DCPS Status Update

The Board discussed the ongoing efforts to obtain access to the artificially turfed high school fields. The Board agreed to seek a regular arrangement with predictable times and payment of fees of less than \$150 per hour that is currently being charged at Wilson. The Board also affirmed the policy of paying the invoices for Wilson that are submitted to DC Stoddert, but not to pay informal requests for payments to any individuals at Wilson.

II. Open Committee

A. Rec Uniforms

Greg Robb reported that the Open Committee had determined to switch the contract for rec uniforms to SCORE. The understanding was that SCORE would be able to provide uniforms that are of better quality at a lower price with faster fill ins, such that Stoddert could order uniforms in amounts that are a closer match to the size of the team rather than the past orders of 18 uniforms for all teams, regardless of the number of players on the team. It was estimated that switching to SCORE will save at least \$25,000 in uniform expenses. The Board did not object.

B. Positive Coaching Alliance

Greg Robb presented to the Board a proposal to contract with the Positive Coaching Alliance, on a trial basis, for 3 training sessions — for league officials (commissioners, etc), for rec coaches

and for parents. The Board approved a payment of up to \$5,000 for this service from PCA for one year, understanding that the materials cost \$5 per person and that the training sessions include follow-up and on-line access to PCA materials.

C. Rec Training Coach Proposal

Greg Robb presented a proposal from the Open Committee to upgrade the opportunities for training for rec coaches, through the use of some of DC Stoddert's Travel coaches. Kate, Len and Greg will work together to sort which divisions to target, which Travel coaches would be involved and when to roll out the program. The Board approved \$5,000/season (\$10,000 for FY 2009) for this trial program, to begin in the Fall season.

D. 12th Man Initiative

Greg noted that the Open Committee is also working to provide greater recognition for the volunteers that make the rec program possible, with a potential new award or other recognition at an event in the fall.

III. Financial

The Board discussed the financial highlights documents handed out and the process for approval of the new 08/09 fiscal year budget. The meeting of the budget and finance committee to conduct a line-by-line review of the budget is scheduled for Monday, June 9.

The Board agreed that the revised budget documents would be circulated electronically with a call for approval after board members had sufficient opportunity to review them. [Note: This was done during the summer and the budget was approved.]

IV. Fundraising

A. Update

Dave Repka and Jennifer Hillman reported that a number of meetings had been held with Anne DiRosa and Cynthia Baker to sort out a more concerted fundraising effort. As a result, a white paper on fields and one on scholarships had been prepared to set forth the case for why we need to raise funds. The consensus of the group was to wait until a few more fields proposals were closer to fruition but to then launch a campaign that would target both fields and scholarship in one fundraising effort.

B. Draft Sponsorship Policy

Bill Garcia's draft of a sponsorship policy was distributed and discussed. The policy would reserve to the league the authority to grant league-wide or program sponsorships with respect to uniforms, apparel and equipment, but would permit individual teams, with prior permission of

the Open or Travel commissioners, the authority to seek donations or sponsorships to defray individual team expenses. Proceeds in excess of set amounts per team would pass to the league. The draft will be taken up for approval in the Fall.

V. Travel

Travel tryouts were being completed and had gone very smoothly. Attendance was quite high and the coaches were optimistic about fielding high quality teams. Over the summer, the coaches contracts will be reviewed and any additional hiring will occur such that the teams would be ready to begin practice by mid August.

The league has gone to a new registration system, Youthleagues, for the Travel players, which should make it easier to ensure that all Travel players have registered with Stoddert and to generate rosters for VYSA.

VI. Director of Coaching

Len Oliver reported that the spring season had included a number of very strong reports from the travel coaches who observed a number of the rec games and provided helpful feedback to the coaches.

June 22 is DC Stoddert Soccer Day at RFK, with free tickets for 12 teams provided under the auspices of the Century Council funds, with an opportunity for kids to play in the halftime game.

Len provided handouts on recreational coaching and ways to keep kids interested in playing.

Next Board Meeting is September 10, 2008