

**DC Stoddert Soccer  
Minutes of Meeting of the Board  
September 10, 2008**

Attendance: D. Repka, D. Sarley, R. Hartheimer, J. Hillman, L. Oliver, G. Robb, W. Garcia, E. Glick, N. Keenan, T. Gross, K. Samsot

**I. Fields**

A. DCPR permit process

The Board discussed the permitting process for the fall season, noting that in the end we received most of the permits that we needed and requested. However, the permits were issued late. Problems also remain regarding scheduling the High School Division, and various alternatives were discussed. DC Stoddert will continue to work with DCPR to encourage them to issue the permits much earlier in cycle. For future seasons DC Stoddert will also seek pre-season permits. Tom Gross has an action item to remember to do this.

B. Premier Partnership with DCPR

Dave Repka, Tom Gross and Charlie Myers have had a number of meetings with DCPR on a Premier Partnership proposal. We have now received another draft document from DCPR and will be sending in comments and proposed changes to the proposal. DC Stoddert has already expended \$23,000 as part of its commitment to the Partnership. The money was used to refurbish the field at Ft. Stevens.

C. DCPS Status

The Board discussed the current arrangements that give DCPR access to all five of the artificially turfed fields from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. every Saturday. Apparently, this was intended to be used for Pop Warner football, but DC Stoddert could get access to some time on Saturday afternoons or Sundays. DC Stoddert will continue to seek access to those fields.

D. Additional Fields

The Board confirmed DC Stoddert's interest in assisting in the turfing of fields such as Mann, Francis or others, using club funds in exchange for a use agreement for those fields and to work on access to the five additional fields that DCPR may be resurfing.

Dave Repka and Tom Gross will determine the status of various proposals to grant use of the field at Jelleff to private schools. Discussions with the Boys and Girls Club are anticipated.

## **II. Administrator's Report**

Tom reported that recreation registrations were in very good shape, with 4,071 registered players and a number of pending players being processed. He predicted that we are likely to end up with more players than the 4,116 we have at the end of last year's fall season. The U-6 division was closed when it reached its maximum capacity of 30 teams; U7 and U8 are also very full divisions.

Matt Davis has been hired as the new registrar. Matt is a recent graduate from GW who played soccer at GW and will be doing some coaching as well.

Tom reported that the recreation season was particularly difficult to get up and running this fall, possibly due in part to the early Labor Day date. The Open Committee has an action to discuss whether to: (1) move the start date for fall soccer to the week after the Saturday that falls at the end of the Labor Day week; or (2) shorten the fall season to 8 games rather than 9 or; (3) play on Columbus Day weekend in order to accommodate a later start to the season.

Tom noted that the switch to new uniforms has been very well received by parents and kids, as the uniforms are higher quality. DC Stoddert has saved \$40,000 in switching vendors. Tom will also continue to focus on reducing the surplus ordered. However, the switch has resulted in various logistical difficulties, particularly with fill in orders.

## **III. Open Committee**

### **A. Positive Coaching Alliance**

Greg Robb reported that two good PCA meetings have been held, one for commissioners and one for coaches. The coaches meeting overlapped with the pre-season meetings for a number of divisions, so attendance was very good and the feedback was very positive. The next meeting will be for parents of players and is slated for the week of October 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **B. Recreation Coach Training**

Greg reported that a number of meetings have been held with Len, Kate, and others to flesh out the proposal, with the expectation that it may move forward later this fall or at the beginning of the spring season.

C. 12<sup>th</sup> Man Initiative

Recognition of volunteers and a PCA Award ceremony is planned for Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with the US/Trinidad soccer match, so everyone can gather for the awards and watch the game as well.

IV. Financial Report

Bob Hartheimer reported that the club's finances remain in sound shape, with funds in the bank ahead of where we were last year at this time. The financial audit is underway right now and is focusing on a number of small details related to recordkeeping but so far is showing no problems with internal or financial controls.

V. Travel Report

Kate Samsot reported that the registration process with the new Youthleagues database went more smoothly than any other season. In addition, she noted that a number of Stoddert teams competed in and did very well at the August Cup and other pre-season tournaments. Four DC Stoddert players have been selected by the DC United Academy and a number of our players have started playing for NCAA Division I schools.

The Board encouraged more posting on the website of some of these accomplishments, including: (1) tournament successes; (2) the number of Division One travel teams in recent years; and (3) college players — so that these accomplishments and the overall improvement in the travel program is more well known. Kate Samsot has action on this.

VI. Director of Coaching

Len Oliver reported that the USSF licensing courses are going well with high levels of participation. The next course is this weekend, an F course at Jelleff September 12 and 13. There will be an E level course December 5, 6 and 7.

The list of professional coaches available for the coach subsidy program (3 practices at \$70 per practice) has been updated and expanded.

There is an open goalie clinic on Sunday, September 21.

The coaches Monday night clinics begin this Monday at 6-7:30 p.m. at Hearst.

Saturday, October 4 is DC Stoddert night at the DC United game.

**Next Board meeting is Monday, October 1st**