

**DC Stoddert Soccer League
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board
September 5, 2007**

I. Consent Items

The Board approved the minutes of the meeting of June 13, 2007 as circulated prior to the meeting.

II. Reports

A. Fields

Charlie Myers reported on the status of the fields and field permits, noting that there had been considerable delays in getting permits this fall.

B. Administrator's Report

Tom Gross reported that, apart from the permit problem, we were now in pretty good shape for the opening of the Rec season, with active commissioners for every division and the rosters and schedules in better shape than at this point in many previous seasons. Tom noted that volunteers were ready to line many of the fields on Friday or Saturday morning.

Tom also discussed the cancellation of the proposed 30th Anniversary dinner event in September. He proposed an alternative event in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting and awards presentation in December.

C. Open Committee

Greg Robb reported that the Open Committee met over dinner last week to discuss follow up steps to the strategic planning process. Greg reported that Task forces are working on: (1) coaching, (2) the Travel/Rec nexus; and (3) communications. Two proposals were discussed: (1) a Stoddert "Wikipedia" as a quick, convenient way to pass on from commissioner to commissioner some of the hard-learned knowledge of the do's and don't on all topics — from how best to line specific fields, to recruiting of coaches, to addressing problem parents or coaches, etc. and; (2) a possible "blog" on the website to capture some back and forth among those in the Stoddert community.

All were supportive of the Wikipedia idea and Greg has the lead. Erik Glick volunteered to work with Jeremy Metz to refine the blog proposal. Kate Samsot noted that some of the information for coaches and for furthering the relationship between Travel and Rec could be posted to a web site forum, with information about Travel games, availability of coaches at specific times to help with Rec teams, announcements on coaching education

programs, answers to frequently asked questions — *e.g.*, “what is the right age to start teaching heading?” etc. She will take the lead on this.

D. Travel Committee

Kate Samsot noted that we are currently 19 players short of where we were projected to be in terms of registrations for Travel soccer. Much of that comes from the lack of a GU9 reserve team. She noted that there are still a few teams that need players and that more needs to be done to reach out to the broader soccer community.

Kate noted that work is being done to move to a club pass system at the younger ages so that the coaches could pull from a pool of talented kids without the need for formal rosters with strict limits on the numbers. She noted the effort to develop a program to permit the dedicated Rec players to train with the Travel teams for \$350 per season, even if there isn't a spot on the team roster for them to play games.

Kate noted that Craig Jones is working with the U-9 and U10 coaches and on the Monday coaching education programs, and that Sona is working with Mohamed on the curriculum for the U11 and up coaches. She noted that there will be a clinic for the coaches next Tuesday at Jelleff from 7-9 pm on attack/transition skills.

E. Director of Coaching

In Len Oliver's absence (to teach a coaching course), Dave Repka passed along Len's report: there will be an open goalie clinic on September 23rd; the most recent F license course was well attended, with 40 coaches; the boys and girls skills clinics start next week and attendance should be very good on the girls side while there are still some spaces in the boys clinics. Len also noted the need for Pugg goals for DC Scores. This led to some discussion of the DC Scores relationship. Dave Sarley took an action to set up a meeting with DC Scores.

III. Discussion

A. Fields

Bob Hartheimer reported that no progress had been made with respect to the field at UDC since the last Board meeting and that there had been considerable turnover in the management at UDC.

With respect to Jelleff, there are no developments to report.

With respect to Alice Deal, a decision will reportedly need to be made by October 2007 regarding whether to put in sod or artificial turf. The artificial turf would cost approximately \$1.3 million. The Board was not prepared to put up a commitment for this money absent a long-term use agreement. DC Stoddert has not been able to get a meeting to discuss a use agreement. In general, the Board confirmed that the club should

not commit any funds unless a use agreement could be secured, but that we should continue to make it clear that Stoddert is interested in working with Deal to work out an arrangement that makes sense for all the users of the field.

B. Office

Tom noted a number of problems with the office at Jelleff, including a flood in the office due to a leak, air conditioning failures, and concerns over the long term arrangements given that the charter school lease is up at the end of the year.

C. Fundraising

Jennifer Hillman noted that she is meeting with a fundraiser next week to try to sketch out some options for DC Stoddert in terms of approaches to fundraising.

D. Need for Volunteers

Dave Repka noted the continued need to find volunteers with skills in the communications and public relations area that could help DC Stoddert improve its communications both with its families, with the larger soccer community, and with the city.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

The next Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 3, 2007.