

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

Attendance: D. Repka, B. Garcia, D. Sarley, R. Hartheimer, K. Perkins, G. Robb, E. Glick, C. Myers, L. Natanson, T. Gross, K. Samsot, N. Keenan, L. Oliver, E. Fredell, M. Reingruber, and K. Kelsner

**I. Consent Items**

The Board approved the minutes for the Board meeting of October 1, 2008.

**II. Reports**

**A. Girls Technical Director**

Karen Kelsner, Girls Technical Director (responsible for Player Development Academy players from GU9 – GU12) reported on her attendance at the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) seminar in Omaha, Nebraska. The seminar covered a wide range of topics germane to club structure and organization. Karen recommended that the Board look at various recommendations from NSCAA, including the need for legal guidelines for coaches, a handbook for new families in both Recreational and Travel Soccer, and information packets for coaches. The Board agreed that a subcommittee should meet with Karen to further evaluate specific proposals. Kate Samsot, Len Oliver, Bill Garcia, Lisa Natanson, and Nick Keenan will organize this effort.

**B. Financial Report**

Treasurer, Bob Hartheimer, distributed the complete annual audit report, with financial statement for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008. Bob and Missy Reingruber also had available the completed IRS Form 990 for the same year.

Bob also proposed a simple and safe investment plan for organization funds, involving laddered CDs. The Board approved the plan, with CDs at periods of 6, 12, and 18 months.

**C. Open Committee**

Open Committee Chair, Greg Robb, reported that the PCA Parent Training program was held at the 4-H Center on Connecticut Ave. on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Attendance was lighter than hoped, but the program was viewed positively. Based on the discussion, the consensus was that going forward, these seminars should be held occasionally, on a regular (predictable) frequency — with a 90 minute maximum program and a focus on younger age levels (U6 – U10).

### **III. Discussion Items**

#### **A. City FC Proposal**

DC Stoddert Soccer was presented with a proposal by City FC for DC Stoddert to adopt the program. City FC was established in 2007 to provide under-served DC youth with a competitive soccer program combined with mentorship and college preparation. Dan Driscoll, Cara Rooney, and others from City FC attended the meeting and made a presentation on their program. City FC seeks adoption by DC Stoddert to provide a legal and financial structure for their self-run and self-funded program. A copy of the proposal is attached.

After the presentation, the Board discussed the proposal. Reaction was universally positive. The program would allow the club to bring in new energy to serve a long-desired goal of improved outreach. The Board agreed to move forward to address the legal implications and financial framework, with a goal of a resolution at the December Board meeting. Dave Repka and Dave Sarley have the lead.

#### **B. AGM Logistics**

The Board briefly discussed logistics for the Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony in December. The Board rejected a proposal to hold the event at an upscale location. It will be held at Jelleff.

#### **C. Board for 2009**

The Board discussed the composition of the 2009 Board. General directors will need to be elected at the AGM.

#### **D. Transcript Proposal**

Len Oliver discussed his proposal for creating transcripts of his taped interviews of former Chairs of DC Stoddert Soccer. The interviews were completed during the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year and Len would like to compile a historical archive. The Board approved \$3,000 for the initial transcripts.

#### **E. VYSA Workshop**

The annual workshop this year will be in Arlington. Tom Gross asked the Open Committee and the Travel Committee to encourage attendance at this event, which is very useful for coaches at all levels. The Board agreed that the Travel Director and the Open Committee would develop a plan to subsidize the workshop fee for a small number (25) of coaches.

#### **F. Fields Partnership With DCPR**

The negotiation of the partnership agreement is ongoing. Tom Gross has the lead. Completion by year end is an objective.

G. Jelleff Status

Dave Repka reported on the DC Stoddert submission in the Jelleff bid process.

**Next Board Meeting (Annual General Meeting): December 10, 2008**



**Play to smile. Smile to  
succeed.**

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[www.CityFC.org](http://www.CityFC.org) ★ (202) 277-8513

City Football Club (“City F.C.”) was established in 2007 to provide District youth with a program combining competitive soccer and first-rate mentorship and college preparation. City F.C. is organized exclusively for charitable purposes as an educational non-profit. Its objective is to bring together the City’s youth for educational and recreational opportunities, including but not limited to soccer.

### **Our History**

City F.C. was created by Dan Driscoll and Roy Kelly, the boys’ soccer coaches at the School Without Walls, a D.C. public high school. The pair – former teammates on a DC Stoddert travel team who both went on to play NCAA college soccer – saw a need to improve the level of coaching and academic guidance provided to soccer players in the DCIAA – the D.C. public schools league – and concluded that access, both financial and logistical, was the most significant barrier keeping the District’s talented pool of student-athletes from achieving their full potential in the classroom and on the field.

Coaches Driscoll and Kelly believed a free, volunteer-run soccer program was the solution, and as the 2007 fall soccer season began to wrap-up, the coaches set themselves to creating City F.C.

Their efforts began with an informal weekly futsal clinic held each weekend at Turkey Thicket Recreational Center in Northeast D.C. Participation began with a few students that had played on the School Without Walls team and quickly spread through word of mouth to an average of more than 35 students each week. On some weekends, as many as 80 kids turned out for the informal futsal gatherings, where they played side-by-side with each other and experienced adult players who were invited to join by Coaches Driscoll and Kelly. But the coaches knew that more needed to be done.

The kids pushed the coaches to create a formal team, and the coaches were happy to oblige. More volunteers were recruited, and these were not limited to soccer coaches. Coaches Kelly and Driscoll saw a need to provide the kids with mentorship to ensure that players were succeeding in the classroom and guide them through the college application process. More volunteers – a mix of parents and young professionals – were quickly recruited.

Working with Montgomery Soccer, Inc. (MSI), City F.C. registered its first team in the MSI “Classic” high school boys division in spring 2008. Driscoll and Kelly volunteered as the team’s coaches, sharing the managerial and registration duties with a small group of players. The team practiced on each Friday and played games on weekends in Gaithersburg, Md. The coaches gave players academic assignments, such as drafting college application essays or creating a professional resume, in order to keep the boys on track in their academic careers. Free tutoring was also provided, with students visiting volunteers for one-on-one support with homework and college applications. From our spring team, two senior players are now enrolled at four-year colleges.

Upon completion of City F.C.’s inaugural season, the coaches organized a six-day training program for the team during the summer of 2008. The summer program combined technical skill development with physical training activities such as weightlifting at a local gym and running in Rock Creek Park. Team outings were also scheduled, including an outing at a local cinema to see “Kicking It” – a

documentary about the Homeless World Cup – and trips to watch D.C. United games at RFK Stadium. A resume workshop was also held to assist those players preparing for the college application process. This fall, City F.C. is again competing in the high school boy's "Division 1" of MSI Classic and the weekend futsal clinics are set to resume around Thanksgiving at a local DPR gymnasium. A second clinic for high school girls will be added, and City F.C. plans to enter its first girl team in MSI Classic's high school age group starting in spring 2009.

City F.C.'s activities are successful on account of its leadership's frugal approaches and creative fundraising activities, which have included happy hours, winning a substantial cash prize at a local adult tournament (the coaches entered a team) and the generosity of interested parents. Our volunteer base is composed of recent college graduates and other adult soccer players who currently play in the Capital Coed Soccer League (CCSL).

### **Our Programming Goals**

Our immediate soccer programming goals are as follows:

- Fall 2008: Begin college application mentoring (academic and athletic)
- Winter 2008-2009: Commence weekly winter futsal clinics for high school boys and girls AND restart weightlifting and speed training program
- Spring 2009: Continue operating boys City F.C. team (most likely in MSI Classic, but possibly in NCSL) AND add a girls City F.C. team in MSI Classic's high school division using same formula from which boys team was developed
- Summer 2009: Offer 6-day "come when you can" (i.e., non-mandatory) training program encouraging technical development, weightlifting and speed training for high school players AND re-start college prep activities

### **Our Founder & Volunteers**

City F.C. is an organization that began with a vision by coaches Dan Driscoll and Roy Kelly – both Stoddert alumni and life-long D.C. residents. They took this idea and recruited friends and teammates to assist them. The majority of our volunteers are in their twenties and thirties and are passionate and excited about the game of soccer, as many still play in local adult area leagues. In addition to this group, we are also fortunate to have D.C. citizens who see the need for our program and are parents of soccer players themselves.

Of course with a volunteer base that is composed of so many young professionals, it is fair to wonder what our ideas for succession planning are. To ensure the succession of its leadership, City F.C. plans to involve additional young adult soccer players as both coaches and academic mentors to its youth players. From this pool of committed young adults, City F.C. expects to identify additional coaches and potential future members of its board of directors. These leaders will then take increasing responsibility for managing and expanding City F.C.'s program, thus ensuring a sustainable succession plan for the program.

## **RE: Partnership Opportunity between City Football Club and D.C. Stoddert Soccer**

City Football Club (“City F.C.” seeks a partnership with D.C. Stoddert Soccer (“Stoddert”) whereby City F.C. would become a subsidiary operating within Stoddert’s existing organizational structure.

City F.C. is year-old program created by Dan Driscoll and Roy Kelly – alumni of Stoddert’s recreational and travel soccer programs and the co-head coaches of the School Without Walls High School boy’s varsity soccer team – to provide free travel-quality soccer coaching and first-rate academic mentorship to District high school students. City F.C. is fully run by volunteers, with parents and other members of the D.C. community contributing their time and energies to support the program’s mission.

City F.C. believes a partnership with Stoddert would be advantageous to both parties. City F.C.’s experience in reaching every ward of the District, and its relationships with D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) and D.C. Parks and Recreation (DCPR) would be helpful in Stoddert’s efforts to provide soccer programs to a more diverse landscape of youth players in the city. Moreover, City F.C.’s close association with DCPS could provide valuable insight and support to Stoddert’s efforts to improve the number and quality of playing fields available to Stoddert’s athletes. A partnership would also enhance the informal pipeline between City F.C. and Stoddert’s travel soccer program, with City F.C. positioned to develop promising players who can become strong contributors to Stoddert’s travel teams. Most importantly, City F.C.’s insight into the college application process – both for potential student-athletes and conventional students – will be a major asset in assisting Stoddert’s participants in reaching their academic and athletic potential.

Said partnership would also enable City F.C. to fundraise for its programs under the umbrella of Stoddert’s tax-exempt, nonprofit status. Furthermore, Stoddert’s breadth of experience in administering youth soccer programs will enable City F.C. to grow efficiently and effectively.

The immediate goals of the partnership would be to:

- Enable City F.C. to be covered by Stoddert’s tax-exempt, nonprofit status, and thus enable City F.C. to fundraise on its behalf effectively;
- Improve Stoddert’s ability to provide an effective soccer program to a more diverse portion of D.C. youth;
- Improve both City F.C.’s and Stoddert’s travel programs by merging our common goal of giving each player the opportunity to compete at a level consistent with his or her abilities.

The mid-term goals of the partnership would be to:

- Leverage City F.C.’s insights and relationships with DCPS, DCPR, and other groups to improve Stoddert’s ability to procure quality fields for its programs -- City F.C.’s unique goal will also support these efforts;
- Have City F.C.’s leadership support Stoddert’s high school-age soccer programs at all levels.

The long-term goals of the partnership would be to:

- Improve the quality of D.C. youth soccer by increasing access to experienced and effective coaching, and in the process, advance Stoddert’s reputation as a provider of excellent soccer programs at all skill levels and ages for youth in every part of the city;
- Level the playing field among both public and private high school soccer teams in the city, by guaranteeing a top-quality third party outlet that is accessible to all
- Enable more Stoddert soccer players to rise to the highest levels of the U.S. national team program.
- Provide the most inclusive and comprehensive youth soccer development in the D.C. area in order to further the U.S. Soccer Federation’s goal of producing world champion caliber U.S. National Teams while cultivating first-rate citizens in the process.