



VYS Board Meeting

July 1, 2014

Board Members Present: Mike Allen, Brian Ebert, Al Nunley, Bob Amani, Ryan Phair, Melissa Taylormoore, Linda McDonald, Dave Shiells, Jamie Wilson, Mike Gurdak, Michele Sullivan, Pat McCloskey, Scott Holec, Peter Wacht

Staff: Eddie Lima, Debbie Brenchick, Anjali Thompson, Liz DiFrancisco, Mary Nunley

Guests: John Lee, Jack Rose, Doug Walls

President Mike Allen opened the meeting at 7:10 PM with a roll call.

Mike mentioned that we have some fun things to work on and he is appreciative of all the members. Our charge is leading VYS and doing things that make the experience better for all.

Good of the Game:

Mike Allen expressed his kudos to VYS, especially Michele Sullivan and Brian Ebert for their efforts in providing jerseys and soccer balls to the children of Haiti.

One guest also brought forth the story of an “indestructible soccer ball” that has been distributed throughout many war-torn countries for children to be able to use. Following is a link to a story on the ball:

<http://news.yahoo.com/katie-couric-one-world-futbol-223434918.html>

Reports of Officers and Directors:

Travel (Pat McCloskey):

VYS will have teams join Elite Player Development Limited (EPDL) this fall. There will two boys and girls teams each from U9 and U10. The VYS Technical Staff believes this is good for VYS and in the best interest of the kids. On a weekly basis the Technical Directors from each soccer program can adjust to ensure competitive balance amongst the teams.

Pat McCloskey acknowledged that while the travel program will not always please everyone, what has been done the last several years has been good if not great and has improved over the last five years.

One of his first missions in his new role is to put the Technical staff at ease and his personal mission is to coach and mentor that staff.

A discussion was started with regard to the composition of the U9 and U10 programs with regard to teams and leagues. It was reported that in:

- U9 Boys (5 teams): 2 NCSL, 1 ODSL, 2 EPDL
- U9 Girls (4 teams): 1 WAGS, 1 ODSL, 2 EPDL
- U10 Boys (5 teams): 2 NCSL, 1 ODSL, 2 EPDL
- U10 Girls (5 teams): 2 WAGS, 1 ODSL, 2 EPDL

Mike Allen looks at the EPDL as an experiment. He expressed a concern that the number of teams could lead to teams playing the same teams, year after year which could produce boredom amongst the kids. However, he is willing to explore the opportunity.

Pat provided an update on the travel committee. The committee added two new members (John Lee and Doug Walls). Nick Makrigiorgos is the EPDL representative. Pat addressed the topic of families leaving VYS (either to no longer play soccer or join other programs). He said that those that left would be welcome to return should they choose to do so. His vision of the committee is to provide support and mentoring to the Technical staff. Mike Allen thanked Michele Sullivan and Linda McDonald for being on the committee as well. He also encouraged the committee and the Board to be aware of the recent history and to move forward, instructing everyone to talk with each other openly and not through hearsay at the soccer field.

Finance (Bob Amani):

Bob mentioned that a lot of analysis has been conducted during the last few months. He expressed a responsibility to associating dollars with VYS missions and a need to “up the game” on vendor management. A good process has been developed with checks based on using best accounting codes. So long as there are no major investments, VYS is usually ahead and can determine how to use those funds. A different account will be set up to pay referees. He would like to see VYS use more CPA support to oversee Finance and to support him as a back-up. Bob is spending almost 20 hours/week on VYS finances. He spent his first year reviewing codes that need to be cleaned up. There were/are “mixing bags” of donations and field support with revenues. These are being cleaned up.

The finance discussion lead to a conversation about registrations. Debbie Brenchick reported that 1123 players had registered. The composition was approximately 538 house players, 572 travel and 15 adults. Registration is open until July 21.

Operations (Brian Ebert):

Brian reported that it was a busy year. Oakton fields were complete and goals were assembled. There are the “typical problems” with goals and sandbags. He is also looking for help with

individuals taking responsibility for the fields (with regard to equipment) as often there are missing locks and keys.

Mike Allen inquired as to how much equipment is needed for each season. Brian responded that there are approximately 350 balls (for house), 200 - 9" cones, 35/40 net bags, "Pug" goal replacement, 50 first aid kits and 20 cases of ice packs.

Mary Nunley also reported that she had spoken with the Adidas representative. VYS is remaining with Adidas and will be utilizing PJ's Sports in Falls Church again for the upcoming season.

Fields (Melissa Taylormoore):

Melissa reported that Liz, Pat and Eddie are getting organized for field loading. Melissa is currently collecting information at this point with regard to available fields, current contracts, etc. and will share when she has everything. Mike Allen encouraged all to start keeping records for future needs and use. Melissa expects to receive information in the next few weeks as to what fields that VYS will be able to utilize.

Melissa is looking at the future planning at Tyson's (as green space will be set aside for use) but needs to understand VYS field situation right now. By knowing the field situation now VYS will be better to be able to plan and understand the needs in the next 3/5/7 years.

Further discussion around fields revealed that there is a new scheduler within Fairfax County. Field allotments may not follow previous years – just because VYS utilized a specific field in the past does not guarantee future use. Liz reported that there are about 300 teams (between house and travel) that utilize fields.

Secretary (Jamie Wilson):

Minutes for the June meetings were approved by the Board unanimously.

Outreach (Michele Sullivan):

Michele highlighted that she will be utilizing Google Docs for the Outreach committee to utilize and those who want to help. Mike Allen would like to get some of the Outreach efforts communicated sooner. Could catch the travel teams on the front end at team meetings. He would like to see a "sea of pink" in October. A recommendation was made to utilize Soccer Wire, Vienna Connection and the Oakton Patch for outreach.

Referees (Al Nunley):

Al highlighted USSF and Virginia had come out with a new fast track program. This program would allow grade 8 referees to move to grade 7. Al asked Diane Gurdak to send the information to all referees and in that category to see if any are interested. Within VYS, most referees work primarily House, Youth and Adult games – not many do Travel games. ODSL does use VYS referees for Travel games at times.

Al reported that last year there were zero incidents involving referees, parents, and coaches.

The total number of referees within VYS can be a challenge to keep track of. The State certifies refs. On average there are about 200 refs within VYS but within the State there is about a 48% turnover rate annually. Al mentioned that refs do not get enough games each season to remain proficient. Thus the quality of referees is inconsistent. The Board discussed that mentoring refs and putting more structure around the referee program is an important aspect for VYS to look at.

House (Mike Gurdak):

Mike reported that at this time not a lot is going on. They had just completed a good season. He mentioned that Eddie Lima does a great job of mentoring and helping out coaches who need it. He will meet with the House Commissioners at the end of the month – Mike Allen asked to be included in that meeting.

President (Mike Allen):

Mike Allen has a call scheduled with Dave Newberry (National Soccer Coaches Association of America – NSCAA) scheduled for tomorrow to discuss the assessment. He expects to receive a copy next week and it will be reviewed before the VYS Board Retreat. Mike highlighted parts of the agenda for the upcoming retreat; Bob Amani will do a full financial layout, review of fields over the last few years, will decide what direction VYS will take, and looking to achieve a good balance for House and Travel (as Travel has been the primary topic the last 6 months). Mike does not expect to come out of the retreat with “all the answers”.

He also asked if everyone likes Madison as the location for future meetings – which the Board does.

Reports of Committees and Staff:

Executive Director Search (Pete Wacht):

Pete reported that they had one meeting and determined that they needed to restructure. New participants are needed. There needs to be a discussion and decision from the Board as to what the committee should be looking for. The committee needs to know the timeline, salary and benefits decision (to remain competitive with the rest of the VYS staff), and whether VYS

needs a full-time Executive Director, a Management Director or a Professional Management Organization to fulfill the role.

Governance (Ryan Phair):

Ryan advised the Board that the Governance Committee is there for the rest of the Board as a consultant. Feel free to come to the committee if things are unclear or guidance needs to be provided. He also mentioned that there are a number of issues that need to be addressed; by-laws need to be revised (some are archaic). Ryan will highlight some of the issues in advance of the retreat. He also recommended that indemnification needs to be considered. Finally Ryan referenced the unprecedented numbers at the election. Under the circumstances he felt a good job was done. However, voting via the internet should be considered for the future. A possibility is to utilize Demosphere. Some other items to consider during the process for next year include descriptions for at-large positions, the nominating committee and “who can vote?” – the current process discriminates against single parents.

Dave Shiells inquired as to the procedure to change the by-laws. Ryan referenced the requirement for a 2/3 voting from membership. He suggested that a comprehensive package be developed for one vote rather than multiple piecemeal votes. Pete Wacht inquired about term limits. Currently there are none. A suggestion was mentioned of possible staggered terms for Board Members. Ryan offered that if anyone has any thoughts to please send them to the committee. Mike Allen wrapped up the conversation by saying that many policies are currently in place – that they just need to be read and ignorance is not acceptable.

Contracts (Brian Ebert):

The committee is currently working on a uniform coaches/trainer contract for the upcoming year. These contracts will be more substantial than the previous ones. They will be sent to the Travel Committee, Eddie and Pat tomorrow to get feedback. They will be uniform across all teams and signatory authority will be removed from the individual teams. Mike addressed that in the past this practice has put Age Groups Coordinators (AGCs) and Team Managers in a bad situation. Brian will send a message to all the AGCs not to sign any contracts. It is anticipated that these will be in place before the Board retreat.

The contracts were described as mostly a “boilerplate template” and expectations of the coaches/trainers are addressed in it. The contracts supplement the new Travel Policy. They are flexible to address both Academy and Non-Academy teams. The companies that provide coaches/trainers to VYS will sign a master template rather than the individuals signing them.

The committee will also look at contracts with fields, staff, and vendors.

Communications (Scott Holec):

The Communications committee is responsible for all VYS communications. Scott needs to meet those on the committee and understand what has been done in the past as well as what is

currently underway. Mike and Scott had a recent conversation and it is key that a common vision is communicated externally.

Technical Director (Eddie Lima):

Eddie reported that there were no issues with House All Stars and that there was good communication with the All Star coaches. He plans to put more on training on the VYS website and put the curriculum in place. Mike Gurdak was appreciative of the training suggestions sent to the All Star coaches by Eddie.

Eddie said that he needs to update the lesson plans. He wants to show how to run a session. There is a plan for a coaching session in the winter. The session will not be mandatory but will be strongly encouraged. This will be a two hour session.

There is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow to discuss field utilization.

Tryouts were described as successful overall. The technical staff tried to make communication better and Eddie felt that the professional staff was transparent.

The U14 teams have a new set of coaches. There is an effort underway to also find new coaches for some of the U15 teams.

Eddie also mentioned that there will move an extra trainer to help both the “C and D teams” at the U11 and U12 travel level.

Eddie asked all to be patient with the transition to the new (EPDL) league. The concept is good but will go through some growing pains.

Eddie would like to bring back both the D and F licenses for coaches.

Finally, Eddie encouraged the Board to consider bringing back Olympic Development Program (ODP) to VYS. He recommends Sunday evenings. These are currently hosted by teams in Loudoun, Prince William, and Arlington.

Pat McCloskey mentioned that Eddie has enthusiastically supported adding a fourth trainer (at Pat’s request) to the Travel academies but also noted that it would add cost to members.

Registration (Debbie Brenchick):

The registration numbers were relayed earlier in the meeting (*see “Finance” section*). These numbers are currently ahead of last year’s pace.

Administrator (Mary Nunley):

“VYS Day” is planned for August 24. The staff is trying to get representatives from both DC United and the Washington Spirit to participate. Currently the staff is also speaking with Will Bowman about Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) days.

Fields (Liz DiFrancisco):

Liz reported that she is currently working on field loading. There is uncertainty as to which fields VYS will have access to this fall. She highlighted various challenges at locations that VYS typically utilizes such as Marshall High School, Oakton High School (stadium track), Marshall Road, Thoreau, and Westbriar. All are in various stages of either currently closed or soon to be closed. Some fields will not be accessible for several years. As over 300 teams utilize the fields, this will have a tremendous impact in field utilization.

Several suggestions by Board members were made and the Board asked Liz to look into the following options for practices and report back:

- Parking lots, tennis courts and the requirements to get permits
- The ability to utilize light stands/generators at the fields and the appropriate permit process
- The availability to utilize Poplar Tree
- Outfields for baseball fields in the area

Webmaster (Anjali Thompson):

VYS utilizes the website, Twitter and Facebook as well as email blasts to communicate. An effort is currently underway to make the website more mobile friendly. Current updates on the website include a moved navigation bar. A suggestion was made for photos for the trainers on the website. Anjali is also looking into Pinterest for VYS.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

The following votes occurred:

- Board Chairperson: by-laws section 5.07 the Board must select a Chair person. A motion was made and seconded. Vote: Unanimous agreement to select Mike Allen as Chairperson.
- Committees: Chairs to fill out the committees was presented. Mike encouraged chairs to reach out to and engage the membership to fill the committees. Vote taken to approve chairs of committees. Motion made and seconded. Vote: Unanimous agreement on chairs to lead committees.
- Travel Committee: reduce Travel Committee positions from 9 to 7 (remove Director of Training and Director of Coaching as they no longer exist). Motion made and seconded. Vote: Unanimous to reduce Travel Committee from 9 to 7.

- VP of Sponsorships, PCA: vote to elect DJ Moutinho to position in a non-voting capacity. Motion made and seconded. Vote: Unanimous agreement to make DJ Moutinho VP of Sponsorships.

Mike Allen thanked all those who came. A motion was made to adjourn by Ryan Phair. It was seconded by Jamie Wilson.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Wilson

VYS Board Secretary