



# VYS Board Meeting

## September 22, 2014

**Board Members Present:** Mike Allen, Brian Ebert, Bob Amani, Ryan Phair, Mike Gurdak, Melissa Taylormoore, Aravind “Jag” Jagannathan, Jamie Wilson, Peter Wacht, Dave Shiells, Linda McDonald, Michele Sullivan

**Board of Directors Special Appointees:** Margaret Kerfoot, DJ Moutinho

**Staff:** Eddie Lima, Anjali Thompson, Mary Nunley, Jane Dawber

**Guests:** Dave Harvey

The meeting opened at 7:40 with Jamie Wilson presenting the Meeting Notice to President Mike Allen. Jamie also advised that he had received no emails of members with advance notice of questions. Mike discussed how VYS members can now submit questions to be addressed at the BOD Meeting up to 7 days before the meeting.

Jamie mentioned that the August minutes were distributed and there were minor changes made based on BOD member and staff feedback. Mike Allen made a motion to accept the minutes and Brian Ebert seconded. There was unanimous approval.

Mike Allen thanked the Marshall Booster Club for coordinating space for the VYS BOD Meeting. The next meeting will be at Kilmer Middle School.

### Good of the Game:

Dave Shiells shared a story from U8 Boys House soccer from 2 weeks ago. He observed after the game and the post-game handshake that kids from both teams started to play again on the field in a form of pick up and were having fun. They played so long that they eventually had to be pulled off the field so the other game could start.

Brian Ebert shared thanks to Rob Perez for putting poles in and repairing goals at Freedom Hill.

Eddie Lima acknowledged and appreciated Mary Nunley and the staff’s efforts towards Vienna Day. It was very successful. Several others in attendance acknowledged same.

Dave Harvey shared the story of a U7G House player whose family spoke limited English. The coach of the team she plays for assisted in acquiring shoes for the girl and coordinating a ride to/from practice.

## **Reports of Officers and Directors:**

### **Operations (Brian Ebert):**

Brian reported that the first two weeks of house games went reasonably smooth. There are some missing locks and some of the combinations are not working. Overall though it has been a good start to the season. He thanked DJ Moutinho and Dave Harvey for their help in distribution of equipment at the shed a few weeks back. Brian also mentioned he has had good dialogue with Melissa and Liz with respect to goals.

Mike Allen asked about the wheels on the goals at Freedom Hill as he had received some concerns shared by YVS members about them not functioning and potentially causing injury to people or fields when moving. Brian mentioned that he would look into it and shared that new wheels cost approximately \$200-\$400, while new goals cost over \$2500. Mike asked that Brian look into the cost of replacing the wheels and mounts.

There was also a discussion about the wheels on the goals at Kilmer. The goals are difficult to move with the caddies as the wheels keep falling down. Brian will look at removing the wheels and suggest people just use the caddies. There was also the possibility of moving a set of goals from Oakton to Kilmer.

### **Fields (Melissa Taylormoore):**

Melissa had a meeting recently with Cathy Salgado (Town of Vienna - Parks and Recreation Director) about planned expansion at the Community Center and more use of indoor space. At this point in time Vienna Youth Incorporated (VYI) contributed a large outlay of money and will probably block out YVS' utilization during the week and weekends. There is a new gymnasium adjacent to the current structure and VYS could get space there on a regular basis. Melissa asked for a schedule for when that space is not being used. There is also the possibility of getting more turf space from the Town of Vienna. She also has a lunch planned with Mark from VYI about potential partnering opportunities.

Mike Allen also shared the story of someone driving on the fields at Oak Marr during a recent House game. The game was called for safety of the players and spectators.

### **Travel (Ryan Phair):**

Ryan shared that all academies (U9-U14) have signed contracts in place. There is also an employment agreement with Ed Thompson (Silver U11) and one still needs to be executed with Yassi for goal keeper training. Phase 2 of the effort will be working on contracts for U15 and above.

Current efforts include working on all payments which are due that will cover all training service through January 15, 2015.

There have been many meetings with the Elite Player Development Limited (EPDL). The first weekend included a kickoff scrimmage fest and the first weekend of games has also occurred. Things are going well overall so far. The EPDL is moving the last game start time to 5:40 pm due to the loss of daylight and to ensure all games get in.

Jane Dawber shared that there was some negative feedback as a result of player movement for EPDL games. The current timeline is that on Mondays, VYS engages in discussions with other team's directors to discuss that week's upcoming games. On Tuesdays, there is notification to parents of planned player movement. The current model targets trying to get teams playing competitive games against one another, not where one team is clearly superior to another. The current biggest complaints deal with player movement and having games on Saturdays. When asked, Jane did not feel that there was a huge amount of player movement overall. Red and Black teams currently play in the EPDL with occasional White players participating on those teams. There is currently a meeting scheduled for October 1 and then also one at the end of the year for the VYS Technical Staff to engage EPDL and provide feedback on the first season.

Melissa suggested that it is important to try and move EPDL games to Sundays in the spring or change the expectations of House teams only playing on Saturdays. The current format of Saturday games for the EPDL significantly constrains House games (due to limited field space).

Winter training space is going to be a challenge. There are currently more teams than before in some age groups. Three gyms that have been previously used are currently closed and it will also be tight due to the upcoming basketball season. Brainstorming sessions and discussions have taken place to try and plan for the upcoming winter season.

The Travel Committee had a meeting two weeks ago and a topic of discussion was the difference with the older age groups (from the Academy format). They are difficult to manage or track as they only have one AGC rather than an AGC for each group like the Academy. Mike Allen recommended that a structure be looked at to get structure in those age groups by having more AGCs.

As the discussion returned to contracts, it was shared that contracts are centrally located on a site and are password protected. There is a standard invoice and AGCs will be able to compare it. At the end of the year there will be a "true-up" with the training companies to make sure all services have been paid for by VYS. AGCs are to send a request for additional, a-la-carte services...to who????

Jag is working with Demosphere. The plan is to begin centralizing the registration fees and to allow families to pay online.

### **House (Mike Gurdak):**

Mike also highlighted the incident at Oak Marr with the car driving on the field. Two weeks into the House season and there were no issues. Brian Ebert mentioned that while he was officiating House games recently he noticed that some kids did not have shin guards and were wearing basketball shoes rather than soccer shoes.

### **Reports of Committees and Staff:**

#### **Sponsorships (DJ Moutinho):**

DJ met recently with Brian Smith of Vienna Baseball to discuss how they currently engage potential sponsors and other suggestions for VYS.

There were three suggestions made:

- House team should be where VYS focuses first to potential sponsors. We could offer to local business to have their logo located on the House shirts. We also need to determine what we can offer to them – potentially plaques for their businesses or advertising on the VYS website. Additionally, the business could pick which team they would like to sponsor or if they had no preference, VYS could pick a team for them.
- Have a specific goal with your message. “Please sponsor us so we can build a field, etc...” Several members suggested using potential funds to aid in funding VYS scholarships.
- VYS should become a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

It was also discussed that VYS should establish pricing for advertising on our website.

Mike thanked DJ for her work and asked that she return for the November meeting with a “Go Forward” plan for the spring.

#### **Executive Director Search Committee (Pete Wacht):**

Pete reported that candidate resumes are starting to be submitted. The close date is October 24. He will be scheduling time in December for BOD members to interview prospective candidates.

#### **“Back to the Pitch” Night (Mike Allen):**

Mike shared that the meeting (scheduled for October 9 at 7:30 pm in the Madison HS auditorium) is designed to communicate the VYS Vision and the accomplishments and efforts of the BOD since the June election. Ryan, Mike Gurdak and Melissa will also present reports. There will also be a briefing of the NSCAA report by Margaret Kerfoot and Mike Allen to membership sharing what we have started and plan to move forward on. Bob and Jag will also provide a finance update at the meeting. Anyone with ideas or suggestions should let Mike Allen know.

**Administrator (Mary Nunley):**

Mary announced that the next “VYS Community Day” will occur on September 15, 2015.

All Star information has been distributed There is a coaches meeting planned for October 7 and games are scheduled for November 15 and 16. There will be over 40 teams participating. Mary will send the schedule to BOD members so they can attend the games.

Mary also informed everyone that October 18 is VYS night at the DC United game.

Mary will re-send the future BOD Meeting dates through May to BOD members. There is no meeting scheduled for December.

**Webmaster (Anjali Thompson):**

Anjali reported that she has added pictures of commissioners, the administrative staff, and the technical staff. The main slider on the website is currently “Give Cancer the Boot”. The newsletter is also doing very well with a high rate of email openings.

**ClubSportal:**

ClubSportal is a training program that technical staff can use to create and manage lesson plans for teams and players. The plan is for it to be beta tested in House for two or three age groups and then to implement a more robust rollout. A motion was made by Mike Allen to utilize ClubSportal. It was seconded by Ryan Phair and received unanimous approval by the Board.

**Open Discussion:**

The NSCAA Convention is scheduled for January 14-18, 2015 in Philadelphia. VYS will cover the attendance fee. Eddie Lima asked to attend along with the Technical Staff (Gerardo Ramirez and Jane Dawber). This was request was approved.

VYS has received feedback on encouraging healthy snacks for teams. Mike Gurdak said that he has encouraged no snacks for House age U9 and above but will also send a message to the younger age groups to encourage healthy snacks.

Mike Allen recently received an email from a U9 travel team parent who has offered to assist in uniform distribution guidelines. This was encouraged by the BOD. An additional comment was shared of recent challenges with delivery from PJs (VYS uniform and athletic wear supplier). This was also acknowledged by other BOD members. Ryan encouraged that both of these be handled post-Executive Director hiring which was agreed by the BOD.

Mike Allen requested that in preparation for “Back to the Pitch” night, all BOD members send an email to him and Jamie Wilson of all projects that have been accomplished or are currently being worked on.

An email request was made by Chuck O'Reilly to become a member of VYS. The Board discussed that to make a decision, the BOD needed information from Chuck on how he contributes to VYS and to better understand his request. As he was not in attendance at the meeting, Mike agreed to contact Chuck and arrange a telecon with Chuck and the BOD to discuss further.

**Closing:**

Mike Allen thanked all those who came. A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Mike Allen. It was seconded by Ryan Phair. The Board voted unanimously to move to Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Wilson  
VYS Board Secretary