

**Board Meeting Minutes 2/12/2015**

**Call to Order**: Chris Donahue, 7:08PM

**Present:** Chris Donahue, Joe Aresco, David Cohen, David Fenton, Matt Dawson, Nick Stevas, Jim Koji, Gregg DiGennaro and Anne Gouin, Chris Dickman

**Absent:** Michelle Hair

**Public Comment**: Jodie Doering, Robin Kohs, Cheryl Wallengren, Elizabeth Hurley, Lauren Kasperowski and Michelle Binesewski were in attendance as parents to discuss uniform pricing and registration fee increases.

This group had voiced concern over the increase in registration fees and the uniform pricing to Dickman and Dawson (all but Kasperowski and Binesewski have sons aging out of the program as current U13’s.

Koji and Donahue provided detail of all club expenses and costing by team, and discussed the ongoing expenses, fees and infrastructure costs the club has each year. Our need to reserve for expenses was also explained to this group (somewhere between four and six months of expenses or 20-25K). The need to increase the pure registration fee from $120 to $128 per travel season was also discussed. Some parents suggested a tiered approach. There was general acceptance of this review from this small group.

As this group had commented on the costs of other Portland sports, as well as comparison to other area clubs, those figures were also discussed. It was explained all clubs differ in their level of connection to town infrastructure, fundraising and added fees.

It was explained that the cost of an annual uniform per player, plus a jacket and backpack to each new player would be amortized beginning in Spring 2015, though the uniform change would not take place until September, 2015. The reasons for the vendor change and need to keep uniforms updated was also explained.

Several cost-saving suggestions were raised by the parent group, though there was no objection to the administrative costs in general. Ideas raised included trophies , OSC training and the use of Jeff Vagell for foot skills, suggesting we eliminate him. The board was in full support of his time and talent and several members explained the experience and value he brings as the most experienced coach we use in our program.

In the end, the true issue was the U13 parents not wishing to pay uniform fees for kids who may not be in the club for longer than one season. Public comment for this issue ended at 8:15PM and the board agreed with the parents to review the U13/U14 costs and respond at a future time.

John Discenza was present as U9B/U11G coach. He inquired as to the impact of reduced U12G enrollment and how it might impact his 22 member team. The group discussed his plans for a short time and agreed to discuss the structure of the U12G team beginning in March.

**Executive session/Meeting began 8:31PM**

**January 2015 Minutes**: Accepted by Cohen, second by Fenton. Unanimous.

**Treasury report**: Accepted by Dawson, second by Aresco. Unanimous.

**Old Business**: None

**Travel Uniform/Fee issue Discussion**

Donahue recap where we began: -

* Nike Uniform – 1 per player, per year beginning Fall, 2015 (U9-U13)
* Backpack – Once per player or upon joining as a new player (U9s and new Players)
* Warm up Jacket – Once per player or upon joining as a new player (U9-U13)
* Basic Travel Fee - $130 per season plus 39 per season for uniform = $170
* Why do annual uniforms – because styles can change each year. All of our players need to present and look the same. We did discuss biennial uniforms again, but decided to remain with the original annual plan with exceptions for the older players

What are the exceptions:

* Spring 2015
  + U9-U12 - $170 with uniform beginning in Fall (and jacket/backpack this fall or upon club entry)
  + U13 and U14 - $130 with no uniform
* Fall 2015 and Spring 2016
  + U9-U13 - $170 with uniform
  + U14+ - $130 with no uniform
* Fall 2016 and beyond
  + All players - $170 with new uniform every fall

It was agreed that Chris Dickman would communicate the exception to the U13B parents by email and Nick Stevas would address the U14G group.

Uniform Ordering – Discussed various options with Cohen suggesting “ordering nights” in June at Team Sports in Glastonbury. We will have a procedure in place before then.

**Equipment and Cash Reserve Balance**

Discussed current improvements needed to Middlesex Avenue field.

Chris Dickman has volunteered to review specs when available and provide some of the work.

Donahue highlighted the need to revisit some major purchases, such as:

* Need new heavy-duty tent/canopies for players
* Spring at Ingersoll – some leveling and goal mouths. Have discussed with Karl from Town Public Works. Will depend on snow melt.
* Discussed expense for lights for additional night games Spring 2015 at Middlesex Ave. This would require an 8x8 goal set.
* Rebounder goal for Ingersoll
* Pursue indoor Futsal l program for winter 2016. Good to keep people active between seasons

Koji – We need to pick our big purchases, make a plan and set a capital equipment reserve. Money allocated per player ($3) will be reconciled as it comes in and any overage will remain in our account for future needs.

Aresco – Should we set reserve first?

Donahue- Asked Koji about his comfort level with a 4-5 month reserve. Koji was not comfortable if the reserve was illiquid. Reserve should be set irrespective of capital needs.

Koji stated our best cash position is Feb/Mar. Recommend $18,421 in reserve and go forward adding $3 per player per session to Capital Fund.

Future discussions will be of our expense goals and how to get there.

We will make decisions around potential revised fees and additional purchases should the accumulated capital balance become excessive.

**Motion to adjourn 9:42PM:** Cohen, Fenton Second, Unanimous