

WSSC Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, Jan. 11, 2021
7:15 pm to 9:15 pm via Zoom

Attendees: Goss (Pres.), Oltyan (VP Admin.), Weiner (VP Coaches), Persson (VP Players), Allan (Treas.), Lucas (Sec.), Conway, Larsen, Hinthorn, O'Byrne, Foulk

Guest: Jesse Russell

Nov. 9, 2020 Minutes: Goss moves, Oltyan seconds approval; Larson abstains for not having read the minutes, Persson abstains for not having attended November meeting, otherwise unanimous pass.

Club Finances: Allan reports that the club lost approximately \$40,000 last year. We have sufficient funds in the bank to shift some from savings to checking to start the spring season with sufficient funds. A CD recently expired and was auto-renewed by our bank; Allan will not let this happen again unless rates improve.

ACTION ITEM: Goss will send out a request for a volunteer to do the taxes.

ACTION ITEMS: Allan will:

1. Determine whether any families donated instead of getting a refund for fall, and if so, how much was donated;
2. Assess the profitability, or not, of the mini's clinic program and report back with that finding.

ACTION ITEM: Someone will do an inventory of the balls in the locker. Recall that Bill Fry ordered a large order of balls in preparation for last fall, which stock remains in the locker except for the size 3 balls used for the fall mini's clinic. This will explain the large outlay for balls in 2019 and no ball order in 2020 and perhaps 2021.

A question was raised about why we were charged for game scheduling for fall 2020 via our association fees when no games were played. Foulk reports that the games were scheduled, and there is a lot of early work involved in this process; had we cancelled the season earlier we might have saved some of this expense. This is a good example of work and expenses which occur well before a season, and which may not be apparent to an outside observer, but which are critical to a successful season – yet another cost of the planning difficulties and unknowns of the pandemic.

Annual Meeting and Board Elections: Elections take place at our Annual Meeting, typically in April, which is usually also the spring Coaches' Meeting. The Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, April 8, probably online as it was last year. If we are able to proceed with a spring season, the Annual Meeting will also be the Coaches' Meeting. Kit distribution will take

place on another day at an outdoor location or in some other appropriately socially distanced manner.

Goss reports he is willing to serve as Board President for another term, but also happy to allow someone else to serve if they wish; there were no volunteers for this position. After ten years Persson will step off the board with our thanks, so we will need a new VP Players. Lucas is undecided about continuing as Secretary. Hinthorn will “probably” stand for re-election. Conway will stand for re-election. We still have one open seat and our guest, Jesse Russell, is interested in running for that seat.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. All members will think about potential candidates for VP Players and Secretary.
2. A Nominating Committee will be formed shortly to make recommendations for the open positions. This slate of recommendations will be published to the membership along with official notice of the Annual Meeting, to be published per our Bylaws.

Registrar: We have a volunteer interested in the position. If she is unable to take the position, Soccer Office is willing to take on this function. Hinthorn reported some background on why we began to use Soccer Office, including the overwhelming number of emails the club received, often duplicative, and the very large amount of time some board members had to spend on this task. Hinthorn believes Soccer Office has been a great value and would have no hesitation using them for registrar duties.

ACTION ITEM: Goss will meet with outgoing Registrar and new volunteer for the position and will report back on whether the position is filled.

Sports Connect: Goss will be setting up a meeting with them to discuss issues we have experienced with the new system. Foulk and Larsen are interested in attending.

ACTION ITEM: All members please send Goss comments/requests regarding Soccer Connect.

Spring Season: A full discussion was had about planning for a possible spring season. Recall that in spring we provide jerseys and balls only, not full kits, so ordering the uniforms may not require as much lead time as in fall. There was consensus that playing is the priority, and that if the season can happen we would use pinnies, T-shirts or some alternative if our regular jerseys are unavailable in time.

Discussion was held about other lost expenses depending upon when we decide to cancel the season - the player fee and likely credit card fees were charged for registrations and were not refunded when the season was cancelled; we would save those costs if we open registration only when we are certain the season will go forward. Curtis reported that field fees can be cancelled with seven days notice. It was proposed that we shorten registration from four weeks

to two, and open it just after Friday Covid numbers are published, to allow as much time as possible before being forced to decide if the season will go forward but still allow enough time to prepare for play. Russell raised the concern that shortening registration also shortens the time for recruiting coaches. This led to the RMA expiration question – will all of our coaches' RMA clearances expire April 30 in the middle of our season? WYS had granted an exception to allow an extension of time before these expired which would cover the season.

ACTION ITEM: Foulk will ask Tim McMonigle for clarification on the status of this issue.

ACTION ITEM: Goss will check with Keli Bitow at WYS about the RMA expirations.

Regarding Covid, Washington State on Friday announced new guidelines for return to play which are quite different from the old ones and somewhat confusing. Weiner provided links to all board members. Generally, under the new guidelines it appears we are closer to returning to play than we were in fall, but it is still the case that play might be allowed one week but not the next.

ACTION ITEM: All board members will familiarize themselves with the new guidelines.

<https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/county-status-and-safe-start-application-process>

The following plans were agreed upon by consensus, recognizing the uncertainty of Covid:

Spring season will start April 18 and conclude June 13 with no games on Memorial Day weekend. Covid numbers will be reported on Friday, Feb. 26. On Sunday, Feb. 28, if play is permitted, we will proceed with the spring season and open registration from March 1 to March 15. If the Feb. 26 numbers do not allow us to return to play, we will assess whether the season should be cancelled or, if the numbers are close, we will decide to postpone the RTP decision for two weeks until Sunday March 14. If at that time play is allowed, we will open registration from March 15 to the 31st. If at that point play is not allowed, we will cancel the spring season. However, the mini's clinic will go forward in any event from April 25 to June 6.

ACTION ITEM: Foulk and Weiner will draft a written plan to this effect to share with HSA at their meeting next Monday in hopes we can all get on the same plan.

ACTION ITEM: Goss will contact ProTime about jersey ordering for spring.

ACTION ITEM: Goss will draft a message to all member families about the spring season and our schedule for deciding if the season will proceed.

The spring player fee of \$75 per player will remain unchanged. If we end up with a shortened season due to Covid, we will consider a reduction in the fee.

While we generally agree that it is preferable to promote players to the next age group in spring, to allow them a chance to get used to the rules, field size etc. which will apply to them in fall,

due to the seasons cancelled by Covid many players have not played at all in their current age group.

Goss moves, Allan seconds that we NOT promote our players to the next age group this spring; unanimous approval.

Birth Year vs School Year Registration and League Alignment: These issues had been scheduled for substantial discussion at the board retreat on January 9, but given the absence of other business, the retreat was cancelled and these issues rescheduled to this regular board meeting. Goss strongly supports voting tonight on a return to school year registration. Several others are willing to vote for this change now. Other members raised concerns about the problems which were caused last time we had to change our registration dates, notably the breaking up of long time teams which had been formed under the old system. Various remedies were suggested, including: play-down waivers to keep teams together; playing teams up to the level of their oldest players; creating mixed age brackets (as is common in the high school rec leagues) which would allow 12 and 13 year olds, for example, to play together without requiring play down permissions; and potentially phasing in the registration change by starting with the youngest teams now but not changing the registration year of any older teams. While there appears to be consensus in favor of school year registrations, several members felt further discussion was required regarding the details of such a transition, including how to keep teams together, how to integrate with U13+ leagues which are organized by birth year, how to communicate these details to the members successfully, impacts on HSA/HSC, etc.

ACTION ITEM: Goss and Oltyan will prepare a report on these issues to circulate to the board one week before the next board meeting, which meeting is on Feb. 8.

ACTION ITEM: Goss, Persson and Oltyan will issue a report to the board one week before the Feb. 8 meeting on this issue.

PCA: Consensus that PCA is a very good program. Weiner will talk with the PCA folks at the soccer convention he is attending remotely and will report back on what the PCA group is doing now.

Fields: O'Byrne reports that all dangerous goals have been repaired. All fields need new field liners.

Misc.: Please see the list Weiner has provided of all the companies who are attending the remote soccer convention he is attending. If anyone wants to connect with any of the companies or get information from them let him know.

Open Board Seat: Goss moves, Larsen and Conway second, that we appoint Jesse Russell to the board's open seat effective immediately and until the Annual Meeting/Election; unanimous approval. Goss will circulate Russell's contact information. It was noted that Russell has

worked at Arena Sports' Lil Kickers program since 2011, ran the SoDo program for 6-7 years and now works in the main office supporting 32 Lil Kicker programs. Russell volunteered to do any job; Weiner suggested he take over as U8 Age Group Coordinator to allow Weiner to focus on his role as VP Coaches and Russell agreed.

Important 2021 Dates:

Monday, February 8: Board Meeting

Friday, Feb. 26: Covid numbers are reported by the state.

Sunday, Feb. 28: Decision Day Number 1 – are we in Phase 2? If yes, registration is March 1-15; if no, are we close to Phase 2? If we are close, postpone Registration to March 15 – 31. If we are not close, cancel season.

Monday, March 1 - Monday, March 15: Spring Registration Window Number 1, assuming Phase 2 by Feb. 26.

Monday, March 8: Board Meeting

Sunday, March 14: Decision Day Number 2, if needed; Are we in Phase 2? If yes, Registration is March 15 – 31; if no, spring season is cancelled.

Monday, March 15 – Wed. March 31: Spring Registration Window Number 2, assuming Phase 2 by March 14.

Thursday, April 8: Spring Coaches' Meeting if needed; Annual Meeting and Election

Monday, April 12: Board Meeting

Sunday, April 18 - Sunday, June 13: Spring Season, except Memorial Day

Sunday, April 25 - Sunday June 6: Minis Clinic (Memorial Day?)

Monday, May 10: Board Meeting

Monday, June 14: Board Meeting

