**Seattle Youth Soccer Association**

**Minutes for SYSA Board of Commissioners Monthly Business Meeting held on May 3, 2021 via teleconference**

**Officers, commissioners and staff attending the meeting:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **President** | David Funke | x | **Ballard** | Luke Giustra |  |
| **VP Administration** | Keith Leitich | x | **Beacon Hill** | Keith Leitich | x |
| **Secretary** | Phil Herold | x | **Capitol Hill** | Perry Lee | \* |
| **Treasurer** | John Clark | x | **Hillwood** | Phil Herold | x |
| **VP Operations** |  |  | **Lake City** | Dave Farber | \* |
| **VP Development Rec** | Ann Davison | x | **LVR** | Greg Parker | x |
| **VP Competition** | Corey McNamee |  | **Magnolia** | Alex Johnston |  |
|  |  |  | **McGilvra** | Jeff Scott | x |
| **Disciplinary Chair** | Steve Kuhn |  | **Mt Baker** | Shannon Palmer | x |
| **SSRA SYSA Liaison** | Larry Metz |  | **Queen Anne** | Ryan Hall | x |
| **Seattle United Rep** |  |  | **Seattle United** | Kevin Long |  |
| **SYSA Cup Rep** | Anne Bare |  | **Shorelake** | Kris Espinoza | x |
| **MAR (Rep to State)** | Phil Herold | x | **Woodland** | Mitch Furuglyas | x |
| \*Shelley Chinn represented Capitol Hill; Greg Lanier represented Lake City | | | | | |
| **Executive Director** | David Griffiths | x | **Scheduler** | Jessica Beckton | x |
| **SYSA Registrar** | Paige Blomso | x | **Volunteer Coord** | Andrew Westmark | x |
| **Assistant Registrar** | Anne Bare | x | **Bookkeeper** | Michele Authier |  |
| **Assistant Registrar** | Julie Irwin | x |  |  |  |

Guests/others present: None

**Monthly Business Meeting Call to Order**

Called to order at 7:08 p.m.

**Volunteer of the Month**

None submitted

**Approval of Minutes and Consent Agenda**

Minutes for previous meeting and AGM pending editing; so not yet available. Noted change to customary order of business in the interest of addressing key items, and proposed addition of WYS background checks to new business. Consent agenda approved by acclamation.

**Old Business**

**Bylaws updates**

A proposed revision to article 3 of the bylaws was distributed with the meeting packet. It had included other sections of the bylaws but the request was to focus on article 3 for the time being. Basis for the changes is that the current bylaws were written for a time when SYSA was forming; it had started with only four clubs but has evolved to clubs with defined geographical boundaries covering all of SYSA territory and the proposed changes codify the current structure. Noted that one added paragraph is a provision passed down by USSF. Further proposed suggestions/modifications:

* References to Greater Seattle. West Seattle is part of Seattle but not SYSA, Shoreline is part of SYSA but not Seattle. Possible solution is to refer to SYSA jurisdiction, which is granted by WYS and that would be specified in article 1.
* Possibility of club mergers, and need to make sure the drafted bylaws allow for that.
* Possibility of future extensions to SYSA that go outside of the current model of recreational, select and premier soccer, such as how TOPS Soccer was part of SYSA in the past and a potential future example being futsal clubs.

Commissioners will share proposed changes with their clubs; suggested that proposed further changes be in the form of expressions of intent and the ad hoc rules committee will draft the appropriate language.

**New Business**

**DEI Codes of Conduct Proposal**

Copies of proposed changes to players/parents code of conduct and coaches code of conduct were distributed with the meeting packet.

*Players/parents code of conduct.* DEI committee had added antiracism language. Further proposed suggestions/modifications: Minor typo was noted and a few changes proposed regarding judicial vs. disciplinary committee; red card vs. ejected from the match; language regarding volunteers. McGilva motioned to approve with the changes discussed, Hillwood seconded, approved unanimously.

*Coaches code of conduct.* Further proposed suggestions/modifications: References to laws of the game changed to USSF laws of the game and local rules of competition; add guardians to say players and their parents or guardians to seek medical care. Hillwood moved to approve with the changes noted, seconded by LVR, unanimously approved.

**WYS Background Check**

LVR presented. Reflects conversation by Griffiths, Funke and Blomso, who went to WYS with concerns over SS# and didn’t have success in pushing for changes. A unilateral decision by WYS that impacts local organizations. Registrars bear the brunt of explaining something they didn’t have a hand in introducing. Entity that WYS goes to for background checks offers a number of services to WYS; however, regarding background checks, a number of organizations offer that and not all require a SS#.

Griffiths shared WYS explanation/justification for the decision to require SS#.

Four options for action were presented and were distributed prior to the meeting

Discussion and issues raised included:

* Discrimination against people who don’t have a SS#
* Clarification that background checks are for coaches and volunteers who work directly with the kids, not every parent and player
* Reports from several clubs that volunteers are uncomfortable giving the information, or have already said they won’t and the clubs will lose those volunteers
* Many coaches have registered since April 1, with no complaints received by SYSA registrar over the SS#
* Possibility of SYSA finding its own vendor
* Mechanism by which WYS communicates with its association members and makes decisions that impact the associations; history of decisions WYS has unilaterally made that impact associations and specifically registrars

LVR motioned to adopt proposed motion two, item one:

SYSA shall present a request that the WYS Board review and reverse the mandate by WYS administrative staff requiring the collection of SSN by Registrants. The SYSA presentation to the WYS board should include information regarding the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Goals and Proposals adopted by SYSA and aspects of SSN collection that violate SYSA goals and inclusion requirements.

Hillwood seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that without a background check, coaches cannot access their rosters; if they opt out of the background check, that’s the impact. Nothing precludes clubs from putting their own notices out on their websites. An ad hoc committee was put together to carry SYSA’s concerns to WYS.

Of the other options for action submitted, none were motioned.

**Officer, Staff and Committee Reports**

Abbreviated, as indicated during presentation of the revised consent agenda.

* **Paige Blomso, Anne Bare, Julie Irwin, SYSA Registrars**
* Complaints about unbalanced spring soccer games
* SYSA registrars intend to clean up the database which will make registration easier
* **Jessica Beckton, Scheduler**
* Seattle Parks will allow spectators; word came in the previous Friday but unknown what the impact of a rollback to Phase 2 would be
* Could be resurfacing projects in the next few years and lights added to Jane Addams 1; nothing guaranteed until projects are actually underway
* **David Griffiths, Executive Director**
* Been focused on pandemic protocols
* Had a few cases of exposure, one led to a cancellation of a spring match out of an abundance of caution by both teams
* SSAC meeting, which is a group of vouth sports organizations; looking to open up three open activity days
* Continuing to field questions from West Seattle about an intertie
* Fields task force meeting this month; some discussion about looking at allocation model

**Announcements and Reminders**

* Next SYSA meetingJune 7; look out for invitation and confirm attendance with iCal notifications

**Adjournment**

LVR motioned to adjourn, Capitol Hill seconded, meeting adjourned by consensus at 9:01 pm.