

# Seattle Youth Soccer Association

Minutes for SYSA Board of Commissioners Monthly Business Meeting held on January 7, 2019  
at the SYSA offices, Seattle

## Officers, commissioners and staff attending the meeting:

<b>President</b>	Steve Kuhn	x	<b>Ballard</b>	Luke Giustra	x
<b>VP Administration</b>	Alex Johnston	x	<b>Beacon Hill</b>	Keith Leitich	x
<b>Secretary</b>	Phil Herold	x	<b>Capitol Hill</b>	Perry Lee	
<b>Treasurer</b>			<b>Hillwood</b>	Jess Gobel	*
<b>VP Operations</b>	David Funke	x	<b>Lake City</b>	Bassim Dowidar	
<b>VP Development Rec</b>	Corey McNamee	x	<b>LVR</b>	Greg Parker	x
<b>VP Competition</b>	Corey McNamee	x	<b>Magnolia</b>	Alex Johnston	x
			<b>McGilvra</b>	Jeff Scott	
<b>Disciplinary Chair</b>	Jeff Huse		<b>Mt Baker</b>	David Funke	x
<b>SSRA SYSA Liaison</b>	Chase Parker		<b>Queen Anne</b>	Ryan Hall	
<b>Seattle United Rep</b>	Kelly Mullins	x	<b>Seattle United</b>	Kevin Long	x
<b>SYSA Cup Rep</b>	Anne Bare	x	<b>Shorelake</b>	Adam Stoecker	x
<b>MAR (Rep to State)</b>	Phil Herold	x	<b>Woodland</b>	Mitch Furuglyas	x

\*Phil Herold represented Hillwood

<b>Executive Director</b>	David Griffiths	x	<b>Scheduler</b>	Jessica Beckton	x
<b>SYSA Registrar</b>	Paige Blomso	x	<b>Volunteer Coord</b>	Andrew Westmark	x
<b>Assistant Registrar</b>	Anne Bare	x	<b>Bookkeeper</b>	Susan Martin	x
<b>Assistant Registrar</b>	Julie Irwin	x			

Guests: Ed D'Alessandro, outgoing Executive Director; Jane McGillivray, WYS; Chris Espinoza & Jennica Bell, Shorelake; Michel Wills, Mt. Baker

## Monthly Business Meeting Call to Order

Kuhn called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

## Approval of Minutes and Consent Agenda

Noted that minutes of the November meeting had not been distributed with the meeting packet as has been customary; therefore approval of those minutes will be withheld until next meeting. No objections to the agenda as presented and declared approved by consensus.

## Volunteer Recognition

Recognition to Ed D'Alessandro though technically not a volunteer. A few words from Ed: has been serving as executive director for 11-12 years; things he still wanted to do but organization is in good hands; recognized staff. Noted that two former SYSA presidents have passed, Harry Hoffman who first hired Ed as field advocate and then Neil Callahan who recognized SYSA's need for an executive director. Group discussed some kind of get-together for Ed as well as Phoebe Russell, longtime and now-former scheduler and bookkeeper.

Group recognized the passing of Bob Sigley, longtime SYSA super-volunteer, former VP Operations and Registrar. Several spoke to Bob's contributions. Group noted need to arrange acknowledgement to the Sigley family.

Noted that "of the year" nominations for rec boys' and girls' coach, volunteer and administrator should be brought to the February meeting. A short statement is all that is required.

### **Guest Presentation**

Jane McGillivray from the WYS asked that her topic, on the agenda under New Business, be moved earlier alongside her other topics. Hearing no objections, this change to the agenda was declared approved by consensus. A handout summarizing various WYS player fee options and broad brush of the fee breakdown was shared. Points of presentation/discussion:

- Washington Youth Soccer Annual Player Fee Meeting — to be held at the end of January; this is where associations approve/disapprove any fee change proposed by the WYS board
- Respect campaign — initiative to spread some of the Positive Coaching Alliance messaging across the state
- SafeSport and risk management — getting coaches RMA-cleared not a major problem, but equally important to get managers registered as well; Safesport online training consists of three 30-minute modules; if WYS and its associations and clubs haven't RMA-cleared all adults who are required to be cleared and also rolled out Safesport, then we're open to liability
- Sozo Sports — facility in Yakima area, WYS is doing more tournaments in Eastern Washington
- Player fee — US Youth Soccer is moving to add \$1.25 per player to the fee they charge state associations, although that hasn't been voted yet; there were questions from the group about insurance and how the dollar amounts in the breakdown were arrived at

### **Officer Reports**

- **Steve Kuhn, President**  
Noting the time and desire to move the meeting along, no report
- **Alex Johnston, VP Administration**
  - Recognized McNamee's team for cleaning up after CT game
  - Shared intent to ensure all clubs are properly registering coaches, performing background checks, etc.; compliance not as consistent as we would think
  - Noted issue of players on select teams participating in SYSA rec leagues; if we're firm on this SYSA could lose players and coaches; will look in the matter and will come back with a recommendation (whether to change, or preserve status quo)
- **David Funke, VP Operations**  
No report; echoed support for Johnston's initiatives
- **Phil Herold, Secretary/MAR**  
Reported that as MAR, he votes SYSA position at WYS APFM; shared his opinions about concerns of other associations as expressed at past meetings, where he thinks vote might go and his own leanings, but will vote SYSA position; discussion about how to arrive at SYSA collective intent given short timeframe until APFM
- **Treasurer**  
Position open; Martin passed out P&L during the meeting and gave financial report

- Might take advantage of improved capabilities within software to change some things
  - Noted possibility of some changes in the budget and questioned approach of setting budget based on previous year expenses; some items in the budget haven't been used; and might consider futures as well as past expenses in budget process
  - Mentioned possibility of raising fees in order to better-cover expenses; Beckton shared that field rates are going up
- **Corey McNamee, VP Recreation Development and pro tem VP Competition**
    - Reported that overall, City Tournament went well; 156 teams this year versus 160 last year; finals at Ingraham were close, only three games with high differentials and many went to Kicks from the Mark
    - Has been talking with Griffiths about getting TOPS soccer back up and moving; McNamee has some contacts and been getting some traction
    - Mentioned that club logo backdrop at City Tournament finals worked out great
- **Chase Parker, SSRA Liaison**
  - **Jeff Huse, Disciplinary**  
Not present
- **Kelly Mullins, Seattle United Board Rep**  
Announced Seattle United fundraising gala February 2
- **Paige Blomso, Anne Bare, Julie Irwin, SYSA Registrars**
    - Thanks to Westmark for the City Tournament logo backdrop; well-received and gave teams a focal point, many used it for team pictures
    - Spring soccer registration is open, 42 teams so far; early discount \$25 per team through January; games start March 31; younger ages fill up fast so share that information as incentive for earlier registration, it helps registrars when teams register early
    - Question from the floor about Saturday mini-league and where it will be held; at Roosevelt like last year
- **Jessica Beckton, Scheduler**  
No report, other than what had been shared inline with other reports
- **Andrew Westmark, Volunteer Coordinator**  
No report
- **David Griffiths, Executive Director**
    - Shared handout of SYSA three-year plan that he had presented as part of his interview for the position; is starting to work on some of those initiatives
    - Reported that he had met with contact regarding SYSA website design
    - Had meeting with Sounders to chat about SYSA becoming community partners

## **New Business**

### **Player Fee & Insurance Changes**

At McGillivray's request, moved earlier in the meeting

### **Website Redesign & Social Media Push**

Griffith shared he had nothing much to add to what he shared in his report, other than a mention of the new platform he is considering

### **SafeSport, Kids Sport, Coach RMA**

Blomso updated the group; McGillivray had spoken to the whys, Blomso shared some concrete milestones:

- Safesport is a National mandate, as of February 2019, all volunteers, staff and board members have to be in compliance; anyone that participates with children (parents, athletic trainers) has to be in compliance by September 1
- Safesport certification will be part of registration to get the background check
- WYS is moving to a static RMA date, June 30, which doesn't work or make sense with recreational season registration; will work with the state office regarding that issue
- Approval will be handled at association level, association registrars will mark coaches as approved

### **Bookkeeper & Account Permission Changes**

Noted that with the transition in the Bookkeeper and Executive Director roles, the board of commissioners needs to formally act to authorize changes to the signing authority. This action would supersede the motion passed at the November meeting which authorized Susan Martin, but was taken before David Griffiths assumed the title of Executive Director. The accounts so impacted are the checking and Callahan Fund accounts at Commerce Bank, and the checking and Sigley Family funds at Columbia Bank.

Kuhn requested a motion to authorize David Funke, Steve Kuhn, Susan Martin and David Griffiths as signers for the SYSA accounts at both Commerce Bank and Columbia Bank, and to remove all other signers. Beacon Hill so moved and Magnolia seconded. The motion was adopted by a show of hands and all commissioners present voted in the affirmative; motion carried unanimously.

### **Old Business**

#### **Protocol for Complaints and Grievances**

Herold, Griffiths and D'Alessandro spoke to the need for SYSA to document a formal process and the need to post on website, share at coach/admin meetings and in email communications. Questions from the floor about how often such situations arise; a small handful over the years of institutional memory but when they do escalate, they take an inordinate amount of time to resolve when the parties are intransigent, and raise questions over steps and process.

Herold referenced the document that had been shared at the last meeting and that the request at the time was that commissioners should bring the document back to their clubs. Reiterated the request and to consult especially with the club presidents on whom the burden often falls. Request from the floor to redistribute the document as a standalone apart from the meeting packet. Clarified that enactment would be as a policy statement, appended to the rules and regulations and requiring a vote by a majority of commissioners present.

#### **Reminders**

- Seattle United Gala February 2, can we fill a table or two?
- Spring Soccer Coaches meeting March 24, save the date
- Next SYSA Board Meeting February 4, look for iCal notifications; confirmation sought that all can receive such notifications

#### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Beacon Hill, second by Mt. Baker, no objections and declared adjourned at 8:59 pm.

