



Seattle Youth Soccer Association

Minutes for SYSA Board of Commissioners Association General Meeting held on
April 1, 2023 at the Northgate Community Center and via Zoom call

Attendance: Officers, Commissioners and Staff

President	David Funke	X	Ballard	Andrew Westmark	X
VP of Administration	Keith Leitich	X	Beacon Hill	Hugh Gallagher	X
Secretary	<i>Noel Maxey</i>	X	Capitol Hill	Shelly Chinn	absent
Treasurer	John Clark	X	Hillwood	Silas Lindenstein	X
VP of Operations	Ann Davison	absent	Lake City	David Levine	X
VP of Rec Development	Kris Espinosa	X	LVR	John Blackham, Jon Carver	X
VP of Competition	Corey McNamee	X	Magnolia	Stephanie Skinner	X
VP of DEI	Shannon Palmer	X	McGilvra	Jeff Scott	X
VP of Marketing & Comms	Calen Holbrooks	X	Mt Baker	Shannon Palmer	X
SSRA SYSA Liaison	Larry Metz	absent	Queen Anne	Yarrow Banko	X
Disciplinary Chair	Chris Tuttle	absent	Seattle United	Kevin Long	X
SYSA Cup Rep	Berry Beard	X	Shorelake	Jenica Ball	X
			Woodland	Mitch Furuglyas	X

Executive Director	David Griffiths	X	Scheduler	Berry Beard	X
SYSA Registrar	Paige Blomso	absent	Communications	Jenn Ireland	X
Assistant Registrar	Anne Bare	X	Bookkeeper	Michele Authier	absent
Assistant Registrar					

APRIL MEETING

- Called to order by David Funke (time 9:33 AM)
- Presence of a quorum noted
- Minutes taken by Jenn Ireland, SYSA Communications

WELCOME GUEST SPEAKERS

- n/a

NOTICE OF SYSA OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

- Boys Competitive Coach of the Year – Matt Dorman, Seattle United
- Girls Competitive Coach of the Year – Kary Whitney, Seattle United
- Administrator of the Year – John Clark, LVR/SYSA and Sue Brangwin, Hillwood
- Volunteer of the Year – Chris Tuttle, Mt. Baker
- Boys Recreational Coach of the Year – Tom Powers, Woodland
- Girls Recreational Coach of the Year – Jeff Scott, McGilvra

APPROVAL OF MINUTES & CONSENT OF AGENDA

- Two sets of minutes were distributed: amended February minutes and new March minutes
- Motion to approve March minutes by Beacon Hill, second by Mt Baker.

OFFICER REPORTS

President Dave Funke

- Have been working on bylaws, which we will cover later in the meeting.

VP Admin Keith Leitich

- Nothing to report

VP of Operations Ann Davidson

- Not present

Treasurer John Clark

- (Dave Funke) John is stepping down. I will be paying attention and stepping in on this until we find someone. We are in a good spot though. We have a paid bookkeeper and an accountant that help manages payroll. We have approximately \$800,000 sitting in the bank right now which more than covers what we need on the day-to-day basis.

VP of Competition Corey McNamee

- Have been working on the select player rule which we will talk about later.

VP of Rec Development Kris Espinosa

- Nothing to report

VP of DEI Shannon Palmer

- Request – we need more people involved. It would be good to have another neighborhood club present. We need to uplevel our DEI work quite a bit, including working on: parental conduct,

coach conduct, girls involvement in the sport, mental wellness in general. Please consider getting involved and helping move the needle this year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SSRA President Larry Metz

- Not present

Disciplinary Chair Chris Tuttle

- Not present

STAFF REPORTS

Registrar Anne Bare

- Spring Soccer Skills Academy kicks off today: first session is full, second session still has space.
- Spring league starts tomorrow: 437 teams registered; 423 kids registered without teams, majority we have been able to place
- Coach compliance – April 30th is the date all RMAs need to be renewed by
- We will be having open office hours at the end of April where clubs can come and get help setting up their system for the fall season.

Field/Game Scheduler Berry Beard

- Magnusson 5 and Jefferson will be reurfed this summer. Hopefully completed by fall but it's TBD. FYI - this is almost the end of the city's reurfing projects.
- Lights are being put in at Rainier Beach field; Van Assalt and Interbay are also supposed to get lights but everything will still be open and operational (Interbay is getting new LED lights).
- No changes to spring schedules! If teams have any special requests please let us know before the schedules are made, it's a time consuming thing to rework everything afterwards. It might be possible beforehand to accommodate requests, but it's a much harder task after.

Executive Director David Griffiths

- See attached XD report
- Staff did a great job of putting together Coaches Meeting last weekend; around 120 coaches attended, which is on par with 2019. Successful meeting overall.
- TOP Soccer starts April 16th, if you know anyone that wants to be a buddy, please reach out.
 - Capelli has offered to pay for their uniforms (approximately 60 uniforms, Sounders colors)
 - High school students can get credit for service hours volunteering with TOP Soccer
- New sponsorship: this is going to be 40K – 60K in exchange for putting their logo on a 1000 jerseys. Also may involve logo on Seattle United camp shirts, TBD. Will update when we have more details.
- There was an incorrect \$880 dollars charge on account, we are working on getting this taken care of.
- Intra district league for the older age groups (not going to happen with WYS, it won't be a state run league). We will survey people again and see what everyone's preferences are.
- Update on West Seattle: How do we feel about this? Do we want to progress forward?

- (Kris Espinosa) What is the difference between someone who is a member or a non member in regards to this? What's the benefit to us in letting them in?
- (David Griffiths) They don't get a vote and they don't pay fees. Benefit for us would be helping us fill out the age groups that don't have a lot of teams.

CLUB REPORTS

- Mount Baker (Shannon Palmer) –
 - Registration opens the second week of May.
 - We've been wondering how to get club liability insurance for off season time? For winter or summer if we want to do other things and bring in kids that didn't play in the fall? Our liability insurance is currently tied to fall registration.
- Capitol Hill (not present) -
 - (Dave Funke) We need to reach out to Capitol Hill and try to help them out. We need to pay attention and make sure they are OK. Clubs that miss 3 straight meetings go on probation according to the bylaws.
- McGilvra (Jeff Scott) –
 - Been working on transitioning the president role from myself to Nick, McGilvra is in a good spot.
- Beacon Hill (Hugh Gallagher) –
 - Starting up our in-house drop-in style program, organized by age group and gender. 'Soccer Sundays' at Jefferson. Larry is spearheading this.
 - Jose son and daughter-in-law are taking over Tecos younger age groups.
- LVR (John Blackham) –
 - LVR is really in a good spot, we had 2000 players about 10 years ago, we bottomed out at about 1200 during pandemic and now we're on the upswing.
 - From a risk perspective, we decided not to go on Demosphere, so we're still on Sports Connect. There have been some challenges uploading and syncing things together with SYSA. We have our basis covered for registration opening, we are a strong club and we'll be ready to go.
- Lake City (David Levine) –
 - We had growth last year and are expecting more this year. Unique situation with field space and lack of lighted space. If anyone has experience with how to lobby the council to get things done, we would love some advice
 - (Dave Funke) May be an issue for the fields task force?
 - (David Griffiths) There is a meeting next week. We can revisit this.
- Shorelake (Jenica Ball) –
 - We have almost a full board which will allow us to move forward with some of the things we've been wanting to do: social for coaches, more involvement from parents, etc.
- Hillwood (not present during club reports)
 - (David Griffiths) New president, Silas Lindenstein.
- Ballard (Andrew Westmark) –
 - United Soccer Coaches Convention was really awesome, I encourage you all to try and arrange to send someone from your club next year. Really great experience, we benefited a lot.
 - Futsal street soccer program is wrapping up next weekend (runs Feb – March)
 - (Corey McNamee) We are getting ready for registration coming up.

- Magnolia (Stephanie Skinner) –
 - Registration starts mid May.
 - We've done a good job recruiting women to the board, but I want to do a good job of recruiting women coaches and keeping them. The dream is a 50/50 coaching balance of women to men.
 - We've never done a developmental drop-in spring program. I am optimistic that we will be able to do more this year. I want to give some thought to what I want to leave behind with this neighborhood.
- Queen Anne (Yarrow Banko) –
 - Trying to get a sponsorship program off the ground.
 - We rebranded our U6 and U7 program, upgraded their facilities.
 - We did use TeamSnap in addition to Demosphere last year
 - There has been a U8 drop-off (potentially going to Catholic school programs). Other than that numbers are good, but not sure if we'll have an older girls team next year
 - Board is pretty good, we do have some veterans on board and some new people
 - Pursuing turf and lights at new locations.
 - Would like to start a potential coaches league.
- Woodland (Mitch Furuglyas)–
 - Still rebuilding our board after pandemic: new board members, new treasurer, new sportsmanship and technical development person. New coach binder for coaches!
 - Our registration numbers this year returned to pre-pandemic. Hoping to expand when we get to fall registration
- Seattle United (Kevin Long) –
 - SU women's social at Ruff and Tumble, women owned bar in Ballard. Good turnout.
 - First time in clubs 14 year history where our board is equally divided among gender.
 - It doesn't happen without a focused effort. We are in a good place, I am happy with where Seattle United is at in regards to representation.
 - Today is the first day of our new fiscal year
 - 5 teams in Phoenix this weekend, 2 Seattle United players got selected for the All-Star ECNL game this weekend.
 - The next thing on our calendar are tryouts.

NEW BUSINESS

- No new business

AGM BUSINESS

- (Keith Leitich) Proposal for creation of new VP of Marketing and Communication:
 - (Calen Holbrooks) – I wanted to help and get involved in the organization that my kids have been playing in. Happy to provide my communications knowledge and experience in guiding voice and tone within the organization and continue to grow it within the community
 - (Everyone – conversation at large)
 - I suggest this position works closely with Executive Director on sponsorship stuff
 - (Keith Leitich) Purpose of this position would be to develop our brand, get our voice out there, help committees with messaging and recruitment to create annual strategy
 - Can this person be available to help the clubs as well?

- (Calen Holbrooks) Yes, empowering and enabling the individual clubs, while also syncing things up at the association level
 - (Shannon Palmer) We have two proposals here. One, can we have this? Two, can we have Calen?
 - Motion to create a board position for VP of Marketing and Communication
 - Creation of VP of Marketing and Communication passed with no opposition or abstention.
- Board openings & candidates:
 - Corey McNamee, renew VP of Competition - passed with no opposition or abstention.
 - Keith Leitich, renew of VP of Administration - passed with no opposition or abstention.
 - Noel Maxey, new Secretary - passed with no opposition or abstention.
 - Calen Holbrooks, new VP of Marketing and Communication - passed with no opposition or abstention.
 - First priority will be creating some guides for social media/communication to help give clubs some guidance in addition to the association overall.
- Approval of budget:
 - Hugh Gallagher (Beacon Hill) motion to accept, Andrew Westmark (Ballard) second.
 - Budget passed with no opposition or abstention.

OLD BUSINESS

- RATS agreement update – postponed till next meeting
- Bylaw update – postponed until next meeting
- Select Player rule (Corey McNamee)
 - Our priority needs to be making sure our intent in the rule is clear. We want to define what it means to be a select player, we also want to specially address this for the older teams so that we can keep (recreational) kids playing.
 - What we are trying to avoid is having teams completely disband because they don't want to play because its no fun to get their butts kicked 15-0 against a whole bunch of select players.
 - We added into rules, repercussions for not following.
 - (David Griffiths) It's a shared responsibility between the clubs and the staff to make sure that we are policing the rosters
 - (Corey McNamee) I will draft a proposal to be voted on at the May Board meeting, so that, if passed, there will be time for clubs to incorporate the rule into their registration intake information and forms.

REMINDERS

- Next SYSA Board meeting Monday May 1st at 7 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn by Beacon Hill, second by Mt. Baker.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:47 AM