

Attendance:

Bryan Samuels, Commissioner
Larry Abelson
Dana Ostroff Abelson
Phil Reed, EXTRA Referee Coordinator
Karen Tamis, CVPA
Erik Gammell, Assistant Commissioner
Andrew Philpot, Registrar
Anna Li, Registrar
Al Azat, Referee Administrator
Rafi Angelats, Treasurer
Roberto (Tito) Villanueva
Luis Orellana
Noel Garcia, Commissioner Emeritus
Richard Chen, Referee Scheduler

Bryan opened the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Approval of Minutes, January Board Meeting

Al moved that we accept the minutes of the January meeting. Andrew seconded. Bryan called the question. All were in favor, with none opposed and none abstaining.

Financials

Rafi shared the financials to the virtual meeting. He noted that we continued to be well under our budget in major expense categories. Bryan asked how we track returned referee deposits for tournaments. Rafi said that he accepts that revenue into the tournament line.

All Star Update

Erik reported. He noted that the Sectional All Star teams competed in playoffs last weekend. Two of our teams finished second and the other finished third. He noted that we have one more weekend of All Stars. He noted that most of our teams will make the All Star playoffs. He said that the feedback on the trainers has been good. The playoffs will occur the weekend of 3/5-6. Bryan noted that we haven't missed a single referee assignment. Bryan noted that the Area has continued to push on the mask wearing requirements.

COVID Protocols

Bryan reported that the outdoor mask mandate for L.A. County has expired. Karen said that she has seen fewer and fewer reports of cases as the case rates in the County have declined. She noted that the County has changed their guidance again. They still encourage wearing masks 'when practicable'. Mask-wearing is no longer required for players during play, coaches, volunteers, or spectators. Erik described the email he sent out to Grad Series coaches clarifying the change. Al said he would send something to the referees.

Grad Series

Noel and Noel reported that Grad Series has gone well with parents and kids enjoying the games.

Spring Cup

Bryan noted that Betsy De Leon will be organizing Spring Cup for the Area along with someone from Region 13. He said that we have lots of interest in Spring Cup with upwards of 280 kids registered. Bryan noted that he hasn't heard of any other Regions assembling 16U Girls teams for Spring Cup. The Area requirement is to have four teams per age division in order to have a Spring Cup season. Noel suggested that the Region 214 girls 16 team could possibly play up in the 19U division, since it's largely the girls JV team from SPS. Bryan said he would support that if Noel thought the team could handle it.

Fields

Bryan noted that the fields aren't in great shape right now. He noted that he spent the entire Fall season trying to get LandCare, the City's contractor, to step up to take care of the fields, and it didn't happen. Bryan said that approached South Pasadena Little League about contributing to field work. He noted that Little League invests a lot of money in taking care of the infield grass and is generally uninterested in the outfield. Bryan noted that he has pushed the City to push LandCare, and they just didn't deliver. Bryan noted that Little League and AYSO have the fields for about six months of the year but all of the regular work done on the fields happens during our permit time. He recommended development of a more holistic view of field maintenance. He said that Little League is proposing a meeting with AYSO to discuss the situation. Larry said that if Little League and AYSO can agree on a plan and present it to the City, that would seem to be optimal. Noel agreed that the City should be pressured to fix the contract with LandCare. Larry offered to help get cooperation from the City's Public Works Department. Larry said that the City is short-staffed and may not be supervising the LandCare contract actively. Bryan said that he has spoken to LandCare directly, and they have indicated they aren't field maintenance specialists. Bryan noted that we have paid to have GopherPatrol come out more often. Noel also noted that the Region also shared costs for maintaining the lights in the Arroyo. Bryan noted that Little League does pay half of that cost.

Bryan called the question. All were in favor, with none opposed and none abstaining.

Volunteer Roles

Bryan asked Noel if she would check with Yvette, the new Board secretary, to see if she is engaged. Bryan asked the attendees to encourage others to participate on the Board. Erik noted that we also have a large number of one-time tasks that volunteers could handle. He said that those things generally fall to members of the Board and to the Commissioner. Dana

suggested that Board members who have kids in the program recruit from the parents at games. The group discussed a number of options for compelling parents to volunteer. Karen noted that Little League and other sports routinely charge parents extra unless they volunteer. Phil noted that he is working on a plan with Jeremy Gonzalez on how to improve the volunteering of parents from the EXTRA program. Noel recalled that we used to use the role of Team Parent to push parents within their team to volunteer. Tito described his ongoing efforts to recruit people to help in their area of responsibility. Tom suggested that the Board use spot-enforcement to make sure that the word gets around that people who don't fulfill their volunteer assignments will hear about it.

Volunteer Party

Bryan noted that he is looking for locations for the party. He said that Anne Moore is helping him coordinate the party. He proposed to have the same sort of party as was held last time. He said that he's aiming for April 9 as the target although we might have to push that back.

Middle School and High School Goals

Bryan noted that Hector is working on repairing the goals. Bryan said that Hector has acquired a lot of the replacement parts and nets needed. Erik noted that Hector was at the Middle School working to make sure the goals roll correctly.

Scholarships (post high-school, for college)

Dana reported that she reviewed the current Scholarship application process, the amount of money in each scholarship, and the number of scholarships we intend to give. Bryan said that we could set up email routing for the scholarship applications. Bryan asked Dana to suggest a deadline for the applications. Bryan proposed having the deadline be the end of March so we could announce the winners and have the recipients attend the party to receive their presentation check. Dana noted that we gave two \$1000 scholarships last year. She noted that our budget was \$4,000 and up to four recipients. Erik said that he believes the current amount is in the Awards and Volunteer Recognition line item. Larry proposed that we seek the applications and ask Dana to return to the Board with a recommendation, should we need additional money to award to more than four deserving applicants. Andrew said that the Board could then act on the recommendation.

EXTRA Tryouts

Noel asked when we would be holding EXTRA tryouts. She recalled the tryouts usually happen at the end of All Stars. Bryan noted that registration for EXTRA is not yet open. Bryan said that he will try to find out from Jeremy what the schedule is. Andrew will set the registration up once the dates are known. Tito asked if we can keep the EXTRA players separate from the Fall Core players in the system. Phil said that he and Jeremy are discussing putting a notice of the volunteer right into the registration. Noel

Adjournment

Noel moved that the meeting be adjourned. Erik seconded the motion. Bryan called the question. All were in favor, with none opposed and none abstaining.

The meeting concluded at 8:36 p.m.