



NORTH CAROLINA ADULT SOCCER ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

February 17th, 2020

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Scott Eisenbraun at 7:05. A quorum of the board's membership was on hand at 7:10 pm. Board members in attendance included Scott Eisenbraun, Donna Langdon, Alexandra Vidaurri, Vance Carlisle, Charles Gomes, Paul James, Matt Friedman (joined later) and Bob Kepner. Executive Director Darius Ejlali also attended.

Approval of Minutes

- January Minutes: After a brief review, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Officer & Staff Reports

- President's Report – Scott Eisenbraun: Scott reported that the NCASA AGM provided a good opportunity for interaction among the associations and with the board, although he acknowledged that discussion was a bit heated on Saturday. He stated we need to do a better job of communicating and we will email minutes of the board meetings to league presidents. Scott and Donna attended the USSF AGM on the weekend of Feb. 14-15. Scott reported that he was greatly energized by the meetings (Region 3 and National Council) and by the banquet on Saturday night honoring Esse Baharmast for his contributions to soccer.
- Treasurer – Charles Gomes: Charles reported that a meeting of the Finance Committee will probably be held during the next week. He did not present a financial report. March 15 is the deadline to submit the organization's 2019 tax return. He will work with accountant Debbie Maffeo to file the return in a timely manner.
- Registrar – Donna Langdon: Donna reported that player registration at present is 3840, which is good for mid-February. She offered a review of the registration status of each association member and added that she will compile a written report for the next Board meeting.
- Discipline & Appeals Update: The update was provided by Darius. There are 2 outstanding D&A cases. He first reviewed a referee-assault matter that arose in the Fall Season, reporting that the player recently chose to accept the prescribed penalty for his alleged transgression. A separate disciplinary matter has carried over for several months. Scott will be sending a formal request to Bob to act as the new D&A Chair.
- Executive Director – Darius Ejlali: Because the focus in January and February had been on the association's Workshop and Annual Meeting and on the USSFAGM, Darius reported that there was nothing new to report on.

Competitions

- Carolinas Cup (Charleston): Darius reported that fields had been secured in downtown Charleston. The fliers that were prepared for the event are awesome. James Island fields are located close to the beach and to Charleston. High quality fields. It is likely that unaffiliated organizations will want to use the fields on the same dates. Darius urged that NCASA initiate steps to encourage teams to sign up to participate in the Cup. He feels that more than Constant Contact is needed. He acknowledged the conflict with Wilmington's long-term Memorial Weekend tournament. He reported that Sophia has done a good job of promoting the event on the South Carolina side.
- Celebrate the TaTa's: Alex reported that no update is currently available, since we're many months from this year's event. Calls have not started yet. The date has been picked.

Old Business

- Website: A contract with Blue Sombrero has been signed. Donna has been working on the matter and indicated that Vance indicated a willingness to serve as the primary coordinator. She will give him the login credentials tonight so that he could initiate the migration process. The question was posed: Do we owe Sports Engine for next year? Darius reported that the expiration date of the contract with Sports Engine is not clear, though it might be at the end of February.

- D&A Policy Revisions (No Update): Persons working on this are Donna, Scott, Darius and Sam and Bob. They are of the consensus that the policy book needs to be cleaned up. A question was posed as to whether or not it is truly necessary to travel to sites around the state for D & A hearings.
- NCASA Safe Sport Policy: The policy has been discussed for 1-2 years to date. What avenue is NCASA going to follow remains a question. It is presently listed as an organization that permits players under the age of 18 but our policies state otherwise. Donna says that we're OK because of our present written policy but that we need to decide to reach a firm decision whether to stick with what we have or to open to players under 18. We need to talk to Nick at USASA about changing the date. If we choose to open to players under 18, then we must implement the SSP. Paul said that he would contact NCYSA's Executive Vice President Bob Singer to discuss the subject. Scott stated that he wanted to have a decision made by the next meeting of the board ... in March. Concern was expressed about reaching a decision on a rushed basis. Forming an ad hoc committee of 2-3 members was proposed. A suggestion was offered to review minutes of past meetings.
- There was a question regarding the status of the goals that are in storage. They have not been moved out. Scott will have an idea on Wednesday of this week when they will be picked up. He stated that we are not going to have to move them.
- There was a question as to the status of the outstanding invoices for ABASA and Jason for the tickets to last July's ICC game in Charlotte. Scott is going to get a message out to both.

New Business

- NCASA Registration (Independence): Darius and Donna reviewed the situation with the Charlotte Independence. They made efforts to keep the organization in the fold, but it chose to move to USSSA. Concern was expressed that the players in the organization would not be informed by the organization's leadership and that they would expect their NCASA/USSF benefits to continue. After discussion, consensus was reached for Darius to transmit a positively-oriented Constant Contact communication to the entire NCASA membership welcoming AC SANDHILLS ADULT SOCCER LEAGUE to the NCASA family and listing the leagues that are members. Charlotte Independence would not be included in the list, of course.
- NCASA AGM (Looking Back)
- US Soccer AGM (Review): Scott and Donna represented NCASA at the AGM. They briefly highlighted the activities and expressed satisfaction that it was a worthwhile event. Alex had originally planned to attend but she was forced to cancel because of flooding of her home during the heavy rains shortly before the AGM.
- USASA Region III Workshops (Planning): An extended discussion was held about this event. Because no other state association volunteered to host the event this coming summer (Saturday-Sunday, June 27-28), the leadership of NCASA stepped forward and volunteered North Carolina as the site. Prior events have been held in Louisiana and Georgia. [a] No objection was raised to North Carolina being the host. [b] The first question was to decide where in the state to hold it. Charlotte and Raleigh were presented as the primary options. After discussion, a motion to choose Raleigh was offered, seconded and passed. [c] The subject of partial funding by NCASA was raised. Scott explained that funds were included in the current budget to support travel by NCASA delegates to the workshop, so he suggested that they be reallocated for use to underwrite hosting expenses. No objection to this idea was voiced. [d] An explanation was offered that having either a specific event to attend or holding a "team building" event would be important. Darius has spoken with a member of the North Carolina FC staff about arranging for the workshop attendees to attend the team's home match [against Loudoun United] on Saturday, June 27. Consensus was reached for this to be the event. [e] Extensive discussion ensued without resolution on which accommodations and cost to work out with NCFC. [f] Scott posed the question of who among NCASA members should be invited to attend...state officers and league officers. No specific decision on the subject was reached. [g] Charles pointed out that, since Alex was not able to attend the USSF AGM, funds would be available for reallocation to support the workshop. Consensus to take this step was reached. The amount will be determined but it was reported likely to fall close to \$1500. [h] The discussion ended with the recognition that planning for the workshop needs to move along quickly. [i] There was also discussion, without resolution, about selection of a host hotel. [j] In his role as regional director, Darius will communicate to the other state associations that the workshop will be held in Raleigh.
- NCASA Board Retreat (Planning): Given the extensive discussion on the Region III Workshop, discussion about a board retreat was deferred.

For the Good of the Game

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 pm.

Next Meeting(s): **7:00 pm, Monday, March 16th**; April 20th, May 18th

Region III and National Events: USASA Region III Tournament (June 12th – 14th), USASA Region III Workshops June 27th – 28th (TBD, NC), USASA AGM September 24th – 27th (Bonita Springs, FL)