

Northern Soccer Club

Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2007

Santa Fe Prep 7:00 pm – 9:20 pm

Present: Brian Brigham, Mark Hogan, Tina White, Hersch Wilson, Dan Miller, Marc Bertram, Justin Najaka, Mike Landen, Bev Purtymun, Molly Cernicek, Bill Flor, Merritt Brown, Tony Ortiz, Alfonso Camarena, Gabriela Camarena.

As there was no quorum at the last meeting (February 28, 2007), an ‘executive committee’ of the board met and discussed 2-3 issues revolving around tournament fees. Those discussions were forwarded to the full board. The discussions and resultant actions by the Board are:

1. The U14B Raptors have carried a high roster number (18) throughout the year and have participated in three tournaments already this year (2 in the fall – 1 in the spring). In doing so, the team has exhausted its allotted tournament fee (\$750) and is asking the club to fund one additional tournament fee for the Durango Shootout (\$450). A motion was made to approve the additional tournament money for the Raptors. The Motion passed unanimously.
2. The U13G KaBoom have not entered any tournaments this season other than the upcoming Durango Shootout. They have requested use of the remainder of their allotted tournament money to cover tournament expenses for their coach. A motion was made to authorize up to \$300 in tournament expenses for the Ka-Boom. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Alfonso Camarena, coach of a recreational Northern SC girls U10 team, has asked for tournament fee reimbursement for the Durango tournament. His tournament team consists of several players from his own U10 team as well as other U10 girls in the club. A motion was made to reimburse Mr. Camarena for the tournament entry fee of \$450. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jim Tilley, Executive Director of the NMYSA, was in attendance at the meeting and was introduced to the board members. He presented information about the NMYSA-sponsored tournament, Kohl’s American Cup, to be held in Albuquerque on May 12th and 13th. The tournament has struggled in years past for a variety of reasons and the state association (NMYSA) is eager to have the event gain more momentum. It is a recreational tournament (ages U9 to U15) and is relatively inexpensive to enter (\$250). We offered to help spread the word about the event, especially to our own recreational teams.

Mr. Tilley also talked about the state’s risk management strategy. Every coach in the state must submit an application to the NMYSA. The NMYSA then conducts a background check on the individual and clears them (or not) to work with our youth. The NMYSA does not charge for this service so as to encourage participation and cooperation from the member leagues/clubs. For the competitive teams, a cleared coach is issued a laminated card with his/her picture and is required to wear or present the card at all games/events. The card is the clearance and ensures compliance with the association’s

policies. Jim encouraged our club/league to issue coach cards to all of our volunteers, especially our recreational coaches (the competitive coaches already are issued cards).

Bev Purtymun of Los Alamos was introduced as the new Los Alamos representative on the Board. She replaces Molly Cernicek, who has resigned due to her work demands. Molly has pledged to stay involved with the club, but cannot commit the time necessary for the foreseeable future.

Treasurer's Report. Gabriela Camarena presented information about the club's competitive teams' registration fee collections as well as team-by-team tournament fee allocations to date. As there remains a substantial imbalance of monies collected from several of the competitive teams, Merritt Brown will be contacting each team's coach and/or parent rep to demand the team's cooperation in collecting the monies still outstanding.

Gabriela also presented financial information about the club. The financial outlook of the club remains positive and there are no glaring issues requiring concern other than \$10-\$12,000 in uncollected revenue from the competitive side. She also confirmed a large increase in club revenue over last spring, as we have had a substantial "bump" in registrations for our spring recreational program. Actual spring registration numbers were not immediately available but revenues were up from approximately \$14,000 in 2006 to nearly \$36,000 in 2007.

Tina White, in concurrence with Gabriela's assessment, informed us that the spring registration has gone well, and we had a "steady stream" of registrants at the open registration session this past Saturday (3/17) at the Genoveva Chavez Center. We still have some coaching shortages to fill (as Greg Rusk was not in attendance, a Director of Coaching report was not available). The older age group (U14) is particularly problematic as we do not have nay coaches currently signed up for the 2-3 teams' worth of players registered. Although no definite decision was made at the meeting, the probable outcome will be that the club will refund these players their money and we will not include the older age group in this spring's schedule.

A discussion ensued regarding recreational tournament teams. As the scheduled tryouts for these tournament teams would have to occur after the first weekend of the season, and almost all tournament entry deadlines will have already passed, the decision was made to hold recreational tournament team tryouts in the fall.

Tina said she has already ordered the uniforms for the recreational teams, and is going with Score as the supplier.

A lengthy discussion about team size versus game size, especially at U10, was held. With the main point being that as we are perennially short of coaches, we are forming larger than normal rosters and that playing 6v6 with such large rosters is making it difficult to get everyone playing time. The US Youth Soccer standard for U10 play is the 6v6 model, which Northern SC has officially adopted. Several points were made, both pro and con, for the 6v6 model and some ideas were offered for making the situation better, but in the end it was decided that Northern will keep with the 6v6 model through the spring season. An exception to 6v6 will be allowed "if both teams at a game have 10 or more players in attendance, the game may be modified to allow for a 7v7 match"

As for competitive teams, Hersch Wilson reported that he was experiencing great difficulties fielding full teams for both the U16 and U18 girls' teams. The decision was made, with the concurrence of Duke City Soccer League, to merge the two teams into one and play as a U19 team, which allows for a larger roster size (22) thereby accommodating both current teams' rosters with the exception of one girl (unnamed) that will be "cut" from the team.

Mike Landen also reported on some of the difficulties being faced by our second U15B team, Atlas. The team is suffering substantial losses (back-to-back 7-nil losses) and there have been problems with a parent-coach (which Greg is aware of and has taken steps towards correcting). The situation is tenuous, and this experiment of 2 competitive teams in a given age groups may be ill-fated.

Merritt will be reporting back to the board regarding his efforts to collect registration monies owed by several competitive teams.

Discussion regarding team rules, financial policies and tryout schedules for competitive teams were postponed until the next board meeting.

Mike Landen and Gabriela Camarena will be meeting this month to review/discuss a preliminary budget for next year. A Preliminary Budget will be presented at the next board meeting.

Brian Brigham reported that he has been approached by Ed Callaghan that we "endorse" his planned summer soccer camp. An endorsement from Northern would save Callaghan substantial City of Santa Fe park fees. The board decided to not endorse the camp, as the board's policy is to encourage participation in Greg Rusk's camps this summer – the dates of which were unavailable at the meeting.

Merritt Brown requested, on behalf of SMHS, a mailing list of the club's players that would be used to mail out informational flyers regarding the school's annual Mighty Mick's Soccer camp. The board felt the decision to issue mailing lists is a "league" matter and needs to be presented at the next League Board meeting (3/28).

Mike Landen reported that the recent Legislative appropriations will enable the Eldorado artificial-turf field to be completed by next fall, and that an additional \$50,000 has been appropriated for the design of more youth fields at the MRC.

Merritt Brown reported that the club has been cleared to begin practicing at the Downs on Monday, March 26th and that teams may need to move to various locations within the infield dependent on grass growth/health, as determined by the staff at the Downs. He also informed the board that the UNM Men's soccer team will be playing an exhibition match at Capital High School on April 21st, in the evening (exact time to be announced later). He stated that the UNM sports marketing group will be preparing posters/flyers for the event and hopes that Northern SC can help promote the game. A newspaper article should be forthcoming and all area schools should be notified in addition to the club membership as a whole.

Merritt also reported that he is pursuing SMHS use of a portion of the Downs' fields for the boys' and girls' soccer teams next fall. Such use, if approved by the Downs, will be subject to the existing MOU between Northern SC and the Downs.

Bill Flor addressed website issues/updates and said that a referee e-mail list has been created with access to the list limited to “list members” only. The league website is now combined with the NNMSL website, and the websites are now, effectively, one.

The next board meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 11th at 7pm at SF Prep.

Meeting adjourned approximately 9:20 pm.