

Arlington Women's Soccer League

Meeting Minutes – January 28, 2008

Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm.

- Diann calls for approval of August Meeting minutes
- There was a move and second – all aye, no nays

Diann outlined actions taken in off season.

- M did not show up for her court date and there is a bench warrant out for her arrest.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed and the deadline was extended for the purchase of liability insurance to September 1st. Research had already begun and it appears that it will cost AWSL between \$3K and \$4K. Since it was extended research has taken a back seat but if anyone could offer up more information or help the Board is welcome to suggestions.
- A new website has been debuted: www.awslsoccer.org. The old domain name is reserved until January '09; however, the new platform ends this month and the only way to renew is to produce a credit card. No one is willing due to the nature of M's connection with the old website (www.a-w-s-l.org). This website may go away and will not be able to show forwarded web address.
- A volunteer is needed for website maintenance; preferably a non-officer.
- Lastly, a debt reduction letter was sent to the Director of Parks and Recreation in November. A reply was received in late January of no.

Questions were then taken by the board:

- Is liability insurance for calendar year? Yes – so the insurance would cover through the Fall '08 – Summer '09 before it would be purchased again in Fall '09.
- How many players are in the league? There were approximately 470 girls playing in AWSL in Fall '07.
- What does the liability insurance cover? The insurance is general liability insurance NOT medical. The medical portion is too expensive. The insurance is required by the County but protects not only the County but AWSL as well.
 - One volunteer may have found some new information regarding insurance. Talked to Diann after the meeting.

Kelly gave the Treasurer's Report:

- On page 1, liabilities are AWSL's outstanding debts
- On page 1, the A represents the \$2K payment AWSL made to Arlington County
- On page 1, \$24,205 (total liabilities) is all owed to Arlington County
- On page 1, another \$2K will be paid to Arlington County from the existing \$5,692.75 to help postpone retaining liability insurance.

- On page 2, it is a breakdown of all expenses and revenue in 2007.
- On page 3, a breakdown of revenue and expenses by season of play. All revenue for Fall '07 went towards the Spring '07 referee fees that were owed.

AWSL's current debt was discussed:

- No payment plan was ever agreed upon but the County offered AWSL a \$4K per season payment plan after the MOU was signed. It was again news to AWSL but seemed to be a fair plan. Would we, AWSL, like to still try and send a letter of reduction on to the Arlington County Board even though we already received a no from the Parks and Recreation division?
 - After talking with Marta, we should not blame the County too much as we would like to continue to have a nice working relationship.
 - Other teams disagreed with this and would like to pursue with the letter as they feel the County is part to blame and what does the League have to lose?
 - Maybe should try going to the County Board but not pointing out their faults, more of throwing mercy on the Board.
 - We need to preserve our good relationship with the County as they are the ones that give us our fields.
 - Have other leagues had the same problem? Diann tells the group that yes there have been other problems but with the MOU they are hoping this will help the situation.
 - As citizens of Arlington County we should be concerned with the lack of attention paid to the problem – they are partly to blame.
 - Will sending a letter affect the League fees and/or the payment plan? Most teams agreed that \$4K per season was fair as it gave AWSL 6 seasons to pay back the money.
 - Suggestion was made to send personal letters if you or your team was still upset.

The discussion was tabled until League/Team fees were discussed (agenda item).

Spring '08 and fee scenarios were then discussed.

- Looking forward into the Fall '08 AWSL will need at least \$2K (liability insurance) and \$4K (debt to Arlington County) giving at total \$6K we will need to cover.
- If Option 2 were chosen there is not much money left over under the assumption of 30 teams, field fees remaining the same, ref fees remaining the same.
 - **Remember that League fees are going up \$300-\$400 in Fall '08.
 - Someone asked about charity events and or fundraisers. Diann responded that it would be great but someone would have to take the lead that is not an officer.

- Arlington County does employ field monitors. They are in need and we have been told that we could do the job and our individual payment would go towards the AWSL debt. We should float out to our teams to see if they would be willing to do volunteer their time.
- Option 3 is the old structure, reduced by one game
- Option 4 is what we did in the Fall '07.
 - How much do we pay for fields/refs if it rains? Rainouts cause AWSL to double pay refs and double pay for fields.
 - It would be difficult to minimize payments for Spring '08 knowing that fees are going to increase again in Fall '08.
 - Any complaints in fee raise of Fall '07? Not many complaints from teams about the raising of fees in Fall '07.
 - How much more does it cost to have 2 refs? It costs \$34 more per game for 2 refs. Someone suggested finding volunteers to be linesman and keeping with one ref.
- A move to vote for Option 4, there was a second: Majority – Aye. Option 4 passes.
- Should we keep with the two brackets in both divisions or move to three.
 - Masters teams all preferred the three brackets.
 - Opens teams: two teams were NAY the rest were AYE. Teams Chaos and C Spot Run both move to lower division and Lead Feet will stay in upper (even though requested a move down).
- The registration deadline for Spring '08 will be February 22nd but wait to receive email from Vicki. Everything needs to re-submitted (id's and registration form). Only one check per team made payable to AWSL and 50% of the team needs to be from Arlington County. It will be \$1000 per team (as just voted on by the team captain's and Board).
- Arlington County does not require id's for over 30. It has been questioned in the past if AWSL would like to require them anyway. No one in the meeting felt that this was necessary

Diann then mentioned that a volunteer was needed to head up Summer '08 soccer.

The Debt discussion was resumed:

- Sarah would get more information on the field monitors but someone would need to coordinate this option if we chose to pursue it.
- First motion was to send a letter to the County Board asking for debt reduction.
 - Ayes won with only 2 nays.

- Next motion was to send a pre-drafted letter to the County Board.
- Ayes win.

Vote to approve the revised bylaws was called:

- Bylaws are approved and the ayes win.

Diann asks for the officers to be re-elected for Spring '08 season. There is only one open position (Co- Vice President).

- Kristi Vangorder volunteers to take over for Val in this role.
- A motion is called to elect and re-elect officers; ayes have it.

Other business and questions were then discussed:

- You will hopefully be able to post your own scores directly to the website but please wait to hear from Laura Snow and Catherine Gouldin (division coordinators).

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.