



Minutes Board of Directors Monthly Meeting

Time: 6:30pm

Date: November 11, 2019

Location: Marian U – Stayer Center – Room 212/213

FDLSA Executive Officers:

Chad Collett, President • Luke Newman, Vice President • Andy Gill, Secretary • Bob Van Kirk, Treasurer

Agenda:

- **Call to Order / Roll-Call – 6:36**
 - Present - Luke, Dan, Andy, Diane, Don, Jillian, Josh
 - Absent – Chad, Justin, Bryan, Kali, Jess, Bob
- **Guest Open Forum - None**
- **Approval of BOD October Meeting Minutes (Emailed) –**
 - Diane 1st, Dan 2nd, All approved.
- **Approval of Financials (Emailed)**
 - Andy 1st, Dan 2nd, All approved.
- **Treasurer’s Report (Bob emailed)**
 - This time of year, bills continue to be paid and revenue is slow. Revenue will pick up again starting December. Overall, we remain financially sound.
- **President’s Report**
 - The Fond du Lac Soccer Complex is officially closed for the 2019 calendar year. We had a lot of fun this year and our share of weather-related challenges to overcome. I can’t believe we actually were on Field 1 with a shop-vac (on multiple occasions) trying to get the field playable for games. Between our Select, Rec, Academy, Little Kickers, and Adult Leagues, we successfully executed another year of soccer in Fond du Lac. Over 1500 youth players and 200+ adults players got to participate in this sport thanks to what we all do by volunteering our time. We operate programs and a soccer complex that benefits the entire community. While, it’s great to see our fields filled with kids during our soccer league seasons, I personally take just as much joy seeing two kids ride up on their bikes with their soccer balls after school stopping by our complex to kick it around – whether they are training and focusing on getting better or just having fun with the ball, they are enjoying themselves and the game of soccer. For that, we should all be proud.

- Speaking of volunteering - It's Time for Board Members to Step Up. It's no secret that the bulk of the work over the years is done by a few people. We have a board of 13 people, and a thousand families across our programs. I do realize not everyone can dedicate the time and a few of us have, but realize it is hard for us to also maintain that level of involvement. We all have jobs, families, and other commitments. EVERYONE should be involved in at least one committee/role and that extends beyond just coaching. I do not want anyone to over-commit themselves but be realistic with what you can offer and engage with and step up. It's easy to stand back and let's others get the work done. If you don't know what you can do, ask. Get on a committee, show up at the complex and jump in – that is what others have done, and that's how things get done and board members don't burn out.
- I want to thank Andy Gill for all his work this fall at the soccer complex. Our two workers we have via SEEK were not as available as we would have liked and Andy really stepped up to ensure fields were ready for each game. In addition, he went above and beyond (working many late hours in the dark) to get our complex closed for the season. It is no easy task to get it all done.
- The Fond du Lac High School is currently seeking to get their own Turf field that will be used for Football, Soccer, and a host of other programs and activities. They are also seeking to build an indoor turf facility. I have informed the FHS Athletic Director that the Fond du Lac Soccer Association fully supports this initiative. I also want to note that this does not impact our club's goal of getting a turf field at the soccer complex which we are actively seeking and Andy Gill will provide an update on later in the meeting.
- **Program Reports**
 - **Select League (Chad)**
 - The Fall 2019 Season is officially complete. Due to an early snowfall, we did have a few teams that were unable to get games played due to field conditions and the inability to reschedule (another reason we need a turf field). Some games still need to be posted it seems but here is how each finished:
 - Girls:
 - U11G: 2-4-2
 - U12G: 1-6-0
 - U13G: 7-1-0 (1st place in League)
 - U14/15G: (3-1-2)
 - U15-17G: 2-5-0
 - U17G: 2-4-1

- U18/19G: 5-2-0
 - Boys:
 - U11B-Dev: (Played two tournaments only, no league play)
 - U11B: 3-4-0
 - U12B: 6-1 (1st place in League)
 - U13B: 6-0-2 (1st place in League)
 - U14/15B: 2-4-0
 - We held a second tryout for the High School age spring boys teams on Sunday, November 3rd. Thank you to Marian U for allowing us to use their turf field for tryouts as our complex fields were a mess. We will have two teams in spring. A U18B State League Team and a U15-17 SECL team. Offers will be extended no later than November 17th.
 - Winter Training: We have dates in place for indoor winter trainings in Lenz Field House at Marian University. December 8th – January 26th. The first and last sessions will be on Sunday's and the rest will be on Saturdays. All dates and times are listed on the calendar at fondysoccer.com. We had to work around availability of space and coaches for Marian. This training is included with the annual player fees for U11-U14 players. This is not for HS players as we keep their fees low and we do not have space available for additional sessions. There is a winter Marian League HS players are encouraged to play in, and also many play in the winter YMCA Oshkosh League.
 - We also have secured indoor space at the YMCA on Sunday's from 4pm – 6:30pm starting December 15th until the end of March. Chad is creating a sign-up sheet for teams to access gym space during these times to keep our players active and touching the ball. This will be open to teams U11-U18.
 - Teams have been encouraged to participate in winter Fustal Leagues and Tournaments. This is optional and at their own expense and not part of the season fee.
 - Spring Season will begin Mid-April. Firm dates for season are not set yet by WYSA.
- **Academy Program (Chad)**
 - We are seeking a new Director to oversee the Academy League. Responsibilities would be to recruit licensed coaches to lead trainings and/or teams. The Academy Director would set the timeline of the Academy and the structure (i.e. training only, days of training, full teams vs pool training, tournament involvement and/or Academy league play), cost to participate, etc. Please note,

if League Play is being considered that would to be determined soon and open tryouts for Academy would need to be early to place teams for spring. See Chad for additional details and responsibilities. Ideally we want to have this person(s) in place no later than January 1st. Current Academy League Director is Chad Collett.

○ **Recreation League (Luke, Chad)**

- Even though it's November, now is the prime planning timeframe for rec league season as registration will open in December. If anyone wants to learn how the Rec League is planned, this year would be a good year to shadow Luke and Chad. The Rec League is an animal, but we have built a roadmap for planning purposes that worked well for us the past few years. This year however we have a few things to discuss:
- Fee: We propose the fees and fee structure remain the same as 2019 including volunteer buyout, keeper card, financial aid, and team sponsor levels (these sponsor fees were just raised in 2020). We do have sponsors potentially interested in donations to offset costs so we can keep player fees low.
- Season Dates: Due to how wet the weather is in May and availability of refs, we are exploring the option of running the season from first week in June and ended the last week in July. The last 2-3 weeks in May, could be used as pre-season/practice games (schedule teams on fields but no refs – they can practice together and scrimmage).
- Jerseys: We are currently exploring options for vendors to provide jerseys. We are evaluating both Jack's Team Sports (current vendor) and Hopper's.
- Picture Day and End of Year Tournament: Propose we keep structure the same as we did in 2019.
- Team/Player Requests: We are leaning towards not accepting requests from parents for players to play together with the exception of Sponsors and Coaches. This will allow kids to meet new people, will stop teams from trying to stack teams to dominate in league and tournament play. We will still group based on school and likely based on previous year teams where applicable. This will save a tremendous amount of time in forming teams and no matter what we do, we do still have complaints because all requests never line up.
- The plan is to have all details locked down no later than December 1st so the registration form can be built by Chad in Demosphere and marketing promotions created.

- Full details on the 2020 rec season and timelines will be shared at the December meeting. See Luke if you wish to get involved.
 - **Adult League (Bryan)**
- **Coaching Report (Chad)**
 - Select Coaches: Pending certifications, the head coaches for the boys teams will be Ian Larson for the U18 Boys State Team and Don Armour for the U15-17 SECL Team. We are in need of Assistant Coaches for each of these teams.
 - Chad will be communicating coaching grassroots course options coming this winter to all coaches across all our programs.
 - Rec League Coach Recruitment will begin in December. It is our goal for rec coaches to take WYSA Y1 course and we have a target again of 100% of our coaches completing background checks with the WYSA before the season. The process changed this year and we need to get coaches engaged early and registered. We will reimburse for the \$15 application fee which is good for 2 years.
 - We are also evaluating holding off-season coaches training locally for rec coaches to make them “Fondy Rec League” certified.
- **Referee Report (Chad)**
 - Chad has requested from Alyssa Miller, Ref Certification Instructor, dates for (1) certification course and (2) re-certification courses to hold in January, February, and March in Fond du Lac. In the past, FHS has allowed us to use a classroom at the HS for this. Chad will continue to coordinate and announce dates once they are locked in.
 - To note this year, the requirements for the course have changed. All changes are not known yet, but there is more work to be done ahead of time that must be completed at least 48 hours prior to classroom session or individual will NOT be able to participate in classroom session.
 - We are seeking a Director of Referees to lead this group within our club and area. This person would take the referee course and be key leader and “go-to” person for referees with issues (rule clarifications, coach/parent/player issues, etc). Chad is willing to remain ref assignor for rec league for the upcoming season and Carlos Frasier would remain Select Ref Assignor for spring. We currently do not have a Director of Referees but those duties have fallen to Chad and Luke to take care of.
- **Concessions Report (Dan)**
 - Concessions Expansion Project Update
- **Soccer Complex Maintenance & Grounds Report (Andy)**

- We needed to post pone the lateral drainage being placed on Field One due to the wet conditions.
- We needed to post pone the sod installation due to the snow-covered fields.
- Water utility has been shut off. Plumber winterized the complex.
- **Sponsorships, Donations, and Capital Campaign Drive Report (Andy, Chad)**
 - Gift Bricks: In November we are launching a new sponsorship program where people can buy a “gift brick” for our concession pavilion. We can sell as many of these as possible. While we have a designated area ready now, we can knock out more concrete to these. The money for these bricks will go to upkeep of our complex and future improvements.
 - Banner Sale: We will also be re-launching our Phoenix Banner Sponsor Sales. Cost is \$250 for a banner that will hang up for a year and includes a company logo or company/person’s name or message with our Phoenix logo template.
 - Winter Training Sponsor: We are currently seeking a Winter Training Sponsor for \$4,000 to cover indoor field space, trainers, etc.
 - Scoreboard Sponsor(s) – We are currently seeking sponsors for our scoreboard. See Andy for details. Costs range from \$10k to \$40k and up.
 - Online Donations: Anyone can go to our site at any time and donate. There is a donate graphic on the home page on the right side.
 - We are also in the process of evaluating what we can provide to sponsors as options including all our Fields, benches, Tournament sponsor, Tournament Field Sponsors, and more.
 - **TURF FIELD Campaign Update:**
- **Marketing & Communications Report (Diane)**
- **Old Business**
 - East Side/UW Land Lease Contract Update - Chad is still trying to connect with UW-O/FDL school to get these completed. Martin Rudd is main contact and Bethany Rusch said it is on his radar. Hoping to get it locked up this winter (hopefully).
- **New Business**
 - Hosting a Tournament in Fond du Lac
 - The Fond du Lac Soccer Association planned to host a tournament in June of 2017. That year, the US Open came to our area and hotel rooms were non-existent so we opted to cancel our tournament early on. We were unable to submit an application to host a tournament in 2018 due to re-vote that took place during the application timeframe and in 2019 we once again were not

ready. I believe we need to get this moving and get on the calendar for one or two tournaments in 2020. The KEY to a great tournament is having a Tournament Director that will put in the effort over the winter to contact teams to let them know about our tournament and get commitments. It is a lot of work – no way around it, but that is CRITICAL to the success of a tournament.

- Application Due Date: Dec 3, 2019
 - Application Fee: \$500
 - Cost also \$10/per team after the tournament
 - Identify Dates:
 - Identify Age Groups: (Suggest U8 – U18)
 - Identify Tournament Director:
 - After a long discussion it has been determined we will focus on shadowing FC Green Bay when they use our complex in fall so we are prepared to host a tournament in 2021.
- **Next Meeting: December 9th at 6:30pm – Stayer Center Room 212/213**
 - **Adjourn**