



Methacton United Soccer Club

Date: 1-27-2020

Time: 8:00 pm

Location: Fairview Village Community Hall

Executive Council in attendance:

- John Larcinese, President
- Cathy Alexander, Secretary
- Ralph Navarrete, Treasurer
- Jeff Davis, VP Intramural Soccer
- Haven Hoilett, VP Travel
- Michelle Bauer, VP Communications
- Steve Mumford, VP Marketing

Others in attendance: Colleen Wolf (Flash 2008 B), Dawn Stralkowski (05 B1 Thunder), Jon Hartzel (2006A Victory), Brad Catania (2009 Heat), Terry Larkin ('10 Dragons), Leon Kanopka (07 Raptors), Rob Hill (2009 Legends), Mike Corrigan (08B Wolverines), Sandro D"Angelo (08 Wolverines), Greg Johnson (06 Victory), Ellen Frazier (08 Bulldogs), Matt Beaugard (09B Phantoms), Beth Butwin (U16 Blue Demons)

Minutes:

Winter Academy Training – Andy is very happy with how the training sessions are going. Turn out has been very good, One coach asked if the training times are flexible. The response was that all slots are full; teams may trade slots, but they must check with Haven and Andy for approval.

VP of Marketing- We are very pleased to announce that Steve Mumford is our new VP of Marketing. He brings a lot of fresh ideas to the table and will be working hard to market our club to a larger geographic area. If you have any suggestions or ideas to share with Steve, please email him at marketing@methactonunited.org.

Marc J. Small Tournament New Club Representatives – This year's tournament will be on June 6th. Last year was the 11th year that the same folks ran the tournament and they are ready to pass the torch to a new committee. They were very pleased at all the new people who turned out for a recent planning meeting. This included Mike Corrigan, Brad Catania, Steve Mumford, Jeff Davis who said a lot of planning was discussed at the transitional meeting. Mike says they feel it is important to keep this event going strong over the next decade. There are a lot of people in the community who knew Marc and they say that this is the type of event he would have supported. While the Marc J. Small Committee is a completely separate entity from the MUSC Board, it is a very important part of our club.

The new committee plans to be much more proactive in recruiting volunteers for a lot of different activities, such as set up and break down, with the aim of getting everything done much earlier in the year. This year, the list of sponsors will be printed on a hand out, which will also include the schedule, that all players will be given when they receive their t shirts.

Spring Leagues – Deadlines are upon us so if have not registered, please contact Haven asap. Please do not pay on your own; Ralph is cutting checks to each league for all of the teams registered.

State Cup Games – We strongly encourage teams to sign up for these. They involve better competition, fresh faces, and it looks good for our club to participate in these. It's an excellent price and your team gets to play in a minimum of three soccer games. State Cups are set up as world cup format brackets. Teams are responsible for their own scheduling to help avoid conflicts.

Spring Academy – There will be no training sessions the week leading up to Easter, April 6th-12th. IM players who want to participate in the spring academy sessions need to register for this separately from their registration for the spring IM season.

IM Training Clinics- For the third year in a row, the U8s and U10s will have three Friday evening clinics with the trainers. These will take place April 3rd, April 24th, and May 15th.

Spring Try Outs- Last week, at the EPYSA Try Out Meeting, all EPYSA-affiliated clubs participated in a gentleman's handshake agreement to not have any try outs, ID clinics, or invitations to trainings (for evaluation purposes) until May 1st. There were only two clubs that didn't participate in the agreement and they are not local. EPYSA is calling this The Kids' First Initiative. We're focusing on pushing back try outs in order to take the pressure off of the kids. We want the kids to enjoy a full spring season of learning and playing soccer before any try outs take place. This will remove the awkwardness that occurs when try outs take place in the middle of the spring season.

All try outs will begin May 1st, with the only exception being try outs for the U9 travel teams, which can take place the week before. This is because, in theory, 8-year-olds are not currently playing on travel teams. Try outs will be wrapped up by the end of May, giving us time to get uniform orders in so that Angelo's will have them back to us by mid-August.

Haven is currently making up the try out schedule. He will make sure that none of the Skyview students are scheduled on May 1st, when one of the Outdoor Ed trips will be taking place. Try outs are currently scheduled to be at Heebner; however, if we are able to get the MHS turf, then they will be moved to the turf location.

If you hear of other clubs having try outs before May 1st – 4th, please email the Board and let us know. Steve Orcutt scouted the try out calendar of area clubs last year and he has offered to do the same this year.

Teams' Financial Plans – These plans are exceptionally important, especially with all try outs for area clubs taking place in the same window. Being organized and having your plan on the website will be critically important as parents gather information and decide where their kids will try out. Please have your first draft to Haven by March 1st and your final draft ready to be posted on the website by March 15th.

ID Clinics- These will not take place because of the Kids First Initiative. The clinics were always a way to jump ahead of the system and have informal try outs. EPYSA wants nothing to be done, from an evaluation stand point, prior to May 1st - 4th. Instead, we will heavily market our Spring Academy, through social media, emails, and paid advertising. Travel teams can invite players to one spring academy practice and they can try it out for free. If they want to keep coming, then they need to register and pay. Our club is one of the few that has an open Spring Academy program.

Summer Camp- These will take place at Heebner, again. Unlike last year, when Worcester Township booked another camp the week of our soccer camp for the younger kids, we have all of the fields and the pavilion for both of our camp weeks. July 13–17 will be the camp week for rising U13 (2008) and older players. July 20-24 will be the camp week for rising U12 (2009) and younger players.



Coaches have requested that we push out more information about what to bring to camp, and we get it to the parents more frequently. We need to make sure that players have plenty of water and sunscreen. We need to let parents know where we expect them to drop off their kids and where they should be picking them up. We should let them know if there are any check in and check out procedures. We should also let parents know how they will be notified if camp is dismissed early due to thunder and lightning. We should have a way of identifying kids with food allergies and Epi-Pens and make sure the trainers know how to administer these.

Colleen Wolf suggested that we recruit parent volunteers to drop by each day, during lunch, and make sure that the kids are re-applying sunscreen and drinking enough water. Last year, some of the kids got very bad sunburns. We will need to make sure that parent volunteers have their clearances.

EPYSA Resident Camp - These camps will take place July 5-9 and July 12-16. They are held at Bryn Athyn College and they are overnight camps, with the players staying in the dorms. There is the option to commute for players who don't want to stay overnight. Cole Larcinese went last year and had an extremely good experience. In addition to soccer, the campers participated in a variety of other activities. He plans to go back this year and hopes to recruit other players to go with him.

FC Montco – After much discussion, the Board has decided to change our club's name from Methacton United Soccer Club to FC Montco. This will go into effect for try outs in the spring. The name change will apply to the entire club, including the IM side, because we don't want any disconnect between travel and IM.

The name change will benefit the players on both the rec side and the travel side. A bigger club will create more competition and fresh faces on the field. The season won't get stale playing the same teams over and over because there will be more kids and more teams.

People perceive MUSC as being a school district club; however, 20% of our players are from outside the Methacton School District, but people don't recognize that. We want to grab players from a larger geographic area. Having "Methacton" in our name is a note that gives the perception that we're a small club. But we have 27 travel teams and that is not a small club. We're not a large club but we are definitely not a small club.

An announcement about the name change will be going out to all of our club families in February. Steve Mumford will be taking the lead on the marketing campaign to communicate our new club name.

We will be getting new uniforms and patches with our FC Montco name and logo.

Magnets – We are working on the details of replacing the magnets that so many people have recently purchased.

Treasurer – A financial report was presented. Please contact Ralph Navarrete at Treasurer@methactonunited.org for details.

Re-elected Board Members – Since there were no competing nominations for Treasurer, Secretary, and VP of Travel, the current incumbents were automatically elected to another two-year term. Ralph Navarrete, Cathy Alexander, and Haven Hoilett will serve until November 2021.

Volunteer Positions- We need to get fresh blood involved in our club. Most of the board is made up of parents with U14 players, so it's important for the parents of younger players to begin volunteering in some capacity. Volunteers are the lifeblood of this club.

The following positions need to be filled:

1. Methacton School District Liaison - In addition to serving as Treasurer, Ralph Navarrete is serving in this position. However, it presents a conflict of interest with his role as a School Board member. This position



requires 3 hours/week at the beginning of the spring and the beginning of the fall. Other than that, it requires a very low time commitment for occasional emails. This is the person responsible for requesting and confirming the field/turf space at the high school, as well as at other schools at which the club uses space.

2. Worcester Township Liaison – Doug Willen is currently in this role but his kids are about to age out of our program. This person is our direct contact with the Worcester Township Director and gets the permits we need from the township. This position requires 3 hours/week at the beginning of the spring and the beginning of the fall. For the rest of the season and year, it requires a very low time commitment for occasional emails.
3. Lower Providence Township Liaison – Thank you to Terry Larkin for recently volunteering for this position.
4. Scheduler – We have a parent who has expressed interest and will be meeting with Sean Thomas to determine whether to volunteer for this position.

