

Mesa Soccer Club Board Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2006

Chuck Myers, Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Registrar – Linda Parker

Linda asked that teams get their registration forms to her as soon as possible and please make sure everything is complete and notarized or she will have to return it back to the team manager until it is complete. July 15th is when registration can start online by registrars. New kids that are playing in July need to register for the current season.

Treasurer's Report –

Jerry Hunt reported balances in the accounts. Skills assessments broke even with \$10 participant fees pretty much covering the field and t-shirt expenses. Jerry has copies of information that team managers will need to open a checking account for their individual teams. Jerry and Steve Parker will provide a budget to actual report for the 2005 -06 year at the August meeting.

Manager's Training Meeting

Steve Parker will hold a team managers' training meeting on June 22nd at 6 PM in the ICE Conference room to go over team manager responsibilities and answer any questions.

Secretary's Report - Joan LaRose

Minutes were submitted and approved with one addition: the option for U-10 teams and younger to select a less expensive uniform.

Uniforms - Jerry Hunt

Uniforms are in stock at Soccer Master and the uniform package will be the same price as last year - \$140. We will stay with the grey practice jersey. Jerry will have the \$70 uniform package (option for U-10 and below) ready June 8th and email it to the board.

Skills Assessments - Jim Thames

A Skills Assessment after Action Report was given by Jim Thames. Overall, it went fairly well despite the significant weather issues. There was discussion about making the fliers more effective by distributing them earlier and not just sending them home through schools. Possible free clinics were suggested and better word of mouth from existing MSC members. We should add to the registration form a place to identify where participants learned about the skills assessment. In addition, we need to find ways to minimize the confusion between Skills Assessment and Summer Skills.

Team formation - Jim Thames

Teams have begun forming and the MSC website has an announcement for the teams needing more players. The important VYSL related dates document was sent to the coaches by Jim Thames. Coaches need to get a manager selected soon to facilitate team registration and choose someone who communicates well with the team parents and coach.

Fields- Jim Thames

Jim has given the field request for the fall season to the City of Mesa and Chuck will meet with them in about 5 weeks to discuss the spring season. Chuck will also follow-up on other ways to work with the City of Mesa such as supporting the Special Olympics and highlight how the

Patriot's Cup benefits the City revenues. Please respect neighbors when using fields located in neighborhoods such as Hohokam or Harmony Park.

Registration fees - Jim Thames will draft a pro-rated fees schedule for players joining MSC after the beginning of the season. Chuck Myers will draft a proposal for fee discount to assistant coaches

Summer Skills started well with the first week complete and a good turnout of participants.

Opening Ceremonies/Spirit Items- Chuck Myers

Opening Ceremonies are tentatively to be held the first weekend after Labor Day at MVHS. We need to have MSC "Spirit items" at the Opening Ceremonies and available other times during the season. Also, an MSC pin for teams to trade at tournaments was discussed. MSC decals and a Welcome Letter will be distributed to each player after team registration.

Patriots Cup –

Tournament Director position is open. We will look into using Gilbert fields for additional fields to Red Mountain and Quail Run.

Referee Training – MSC would like to encourage more players and parents to become referees. Mike Padilla will collect referee training information and Joan LaRose will distribute it to team managers.

MSC Master Calendar Review – Shawn Kirkpatrick

Shawn went over the Master Calendar and reviewed status on upcoming dates in the Calendar of Events

New Business:

MSC Gathering at Buffalo Wild Wings for the World Cup is coming up. Chuck Myers and David Cruz are working on more MSC sponsorships.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Submitted by Joan LaRose
MSC Secretary

MSC Skills Assessment May 2006 after Action Report 4 June 2006

1. Timing of Skill Assessments - The first session did not start until 16 May and went 17 May, 20 May (Saturday) and 23 May (Tuesday at Red Mountain) for four sessions. I believe we need to start a little earlier and break the tryouts into two different parts. The U11 through U8 tryouts can begin in late April. There could be some conflicts with coaches still in state cup with other teams, but maybe they could practice at the later times and the tryouts could be held at Quail Run Monday through Thursday the last week or last two weeks in April. Then there will be fewer conflicts for coaches coaching two teams and more coaches to help with the assessments. Subsequently this would allow more coaches to be available with the older teams and more flexibility to schedule them in May. We stayed away from high school graduation, but there were other activities at the end of school year including finals that limit participation that late in May. Teams should be prepared to continue tryouts later at a different location and time should the need arise.
2. Advertisement – We sent out 44,000 flyers but I do not feel we got near the numbers we needed to have the best selection process. A number of teams are still looking for players and just did not have the numbers of players show up. This continues to be a big stumbling block for the club. We need to find a way to break into the AYSO block of players and start to bring in numbers of these players. It is my opinion that few of the players that attended the skills assessments did so strictly from the flyers that were sent out. I would like to thank Sonic and David Cruz for the money and effort given to get those flyers out.
3. Developmental League – We did get more numbers of younger players. Two years ago there were 3 girls in the U10 and below. I believe we are able to field a U9 and U10 boy's teams and U10 girls and possibly a U9 girl's team to a large extent due to the efforts of David Cruz and the ability to bring players in from the Developmental League. This was one of the bright spots in the whole skills assessment but we would like to have had a lot more.
4. Administration – The help from Joan and all the volunteers was great especially under the wind and weather conditions on the first two days and the heat on Saturday. I feel we need to review if there is a better way to handle the paper work. Perhaps the coaches should have an administrative assistant at the field to keep track of the player's attendance and check on correct birthdates, etc. There were several players that ended up at the wrong fields and were redirected at some point. Handling players playing up needs to be worked out a little better between the coaches. I feel we let players know sooner this year as to whether they had the aptitude to be on a team, but also know there were some problems with email addresses and possibly several that were notified later. If we could find a way to make sure the email addresses are all in capital letters or something to insure they are correct this can help the coaches get information out. Much better than last year but it will always have to be watched carefully.
5. Several coaches who we had planned on coaching multiple teams for MSC and who left at the last minute caused considerable problems with scheduling teams and in one case

caused us to change three coaches on the girls side and two on the boys side half way through tryouts. This created lots of confusion for both the players and coaches in keeping track of the players and sorting out which players were really on the teams. Under the circumstances, I believe all the coaches did a pretty good job.

6. Assistant coaches for a number of teams stepped in and helped out with other teams and my two sons Brian and Jimmy also helped out.
7. The real winners seemed to be the coaches and assistant coaches that went out and found players from AYSO or other teams that were looking for a new home. Sean Kelly brought in a whole group of different girls from AYSO for a 95 girls white team. I know others were out looking and brought in some good players as well.
8. Facilities – Red Mountain was good and the number of fields (5) considering the number of teams worked out good for the weeknights. We were only allowed the use of 2 fields on Saturday at Quail Run and that forced the longer day but did force any coaches to be scheduled twice.
9. Cost and uniforms – Cost seemed to not be a factor and the T-shirts worked out great again. Thanks Jerry.
10. Non-Sunday Players – There needs to be a place on the master form of players attending sessions that identifies a non-Sunday player.
11. Summer Skills Assessment flyers – These were available and were handed out and the opportunity to sign up at Skills Assessments was made available.
12. We need to find out where the players get the information (already on teams, flyers, friends, etc) to come to Skills Assessment.
13. Apparently a few of the parents were confused and believed Skills Assessment had to do with Summer Skills verses tryouts. Placement on the web site and perhaps some type of wording might help to clarify this.

Overall the skills assessment had some pains due to several coaches being scheduled at the same time. Although we had some assistant coaches and volunteers step in, this was not the case when the fields and times were originally scheduled but occurred as a result of several coaches leaving at the last minute and several coaches deciding they wanted to coach three teams. The skills assessment timing needs to be moved up and start with the U8 through U11 in the last part of April. There needs to be some better way to get to the AYSO group and bring in players interested in learning the game better. I can not believe that most of the flyers made it home to the parents.

Jim Thames
Head Coach Mesa Soccer Club
480-897-1077