



## EMERALD CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

### **Emerald City Football Club (ECFC) Board of Directors Minutes of Special Meeting July 6th, 2009 Sand Point Education Center, Seattle Washington**

In attendance: Dan Barsher, Jonathan Fischer, Jeanne Suleiman (arrived approx 7:45pm), Tor Jernudd, Bobby Howe, Joe Picciano, David Smith, Tai Po.

Excused: Monique Keranen, Chris Perkins, AJ Fischer, Chris Perkins, Ruth Nicholson

President JP convened the meeting at 7:05pm, thanking Ruth and others for their help in preparing the agenda.

#### **WYS Letter**

***DB makes motion that the board convene as a committee of the whole in order to discuss WYS letter to ECFC dated June 24, 2009. JF 2nds. 6/6 in favor.***

The committee reports that is discussed the letter and has nothing further to report.

VP of Membership JS arrives.

#### **Seattle United Survey.**

Method: A survey link was sent to all email addresses in the club in order to capture comments and input from everyone. However, a unique code was assigned to each player, so that for the purposes of tabulating results, only one response per player would be counted. As of July 6<sup>th</sup> 315 responses had been received, including 16 from coaches. On July 7<sup>th</sup> the results will be collected and the responses formally tabulated with the completed report to be added as an addendum to these minutes, sent to the SYSA Board of Commissioners, and posted on our club website.

The preliminary results were as follows:

15 out of 16 coaches that have responded to date (94%,) asked our commissioner to vote "NO" in opposition to Seattle United.

An overwhelming majority of the general membership also favors a "No" vote, with slightly more than 20% advocating a "Yes", and less than 10% in favor of abstaining.

The same 20% (correlation: ) in favor of a "yes" vote on Seattle United also support the "single entity now". Nearly 60% of the membership supports the idea of a new club to serve the middle tier (only), with the balance "not sure".

Unsurprisingly the "yes for Seattle United" respondents are also in favor of embracing Seattle United if the SYSA vote passes. Of the "No" advocates about 10% would urge the board to set aside its concerns and embrace Seattle United if it passes, about 1/3 are "not sure" and the remaining majority of members responded in favor of exploring "ALL OPTIONS" to remain independent.



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There were questions to both the survey email address and posed directly to board members in regard to both Seattle United and the survey. It is very clear that there is still confusion, a lack of consensus and many questions about Seattle United and the implications of its implementation among our membership.

### **Informational Meetings**

Volunteer Coordinator DB and other board members reported on informational meetings that they had conducted and reiterated the idea that there were many unanswered questions and concerns. Several themes emerged. One of the main concerns expressed by our members in the meetings was how Seattle United was going to be able to actually improve things given the plan as presented and the people involved. Several parents reported "horror stories" from tryouts, including one where a "Westside" coach had offered Sounders FC tickets as an incentive for their player to join his team.

### **July 9 Meeting Preparations**

President JP reported that he had a conversation with SYSA President PM and agreed that ECFC would not read all of the member comments collected in our survey, but that they would be forwarded via email.

There was discussion regarding:

- 1) The "Anderson Report" and where it should be placed on the SYSA agenda
- 2) Shorelake's email motion to postpone the vote
- 3) The need to discuss the proposed funding for Seattle United
- 4) How the other board members could help SYSA Commissioner MK prepare for the meeting
- 5) A member communication urging attendance.

### **Election Results**

President JP asked the board if there was any reason to distribute the actual election results tabulation. There are no current plans to release or distribute.

### **Business Manager Report**

Mea had sent a written report with updates on uniforms, "Sounders Night", the Manager's Meeting, and team equipment.

### **Financial Aid Committee Report**

Treasurer JF reported that financial aid requests received to date totaled \$63,550, with \$35,000 of that total from applicants with a confirmed need for 100% support (free and reduced lunch recipients), and the balance pending evaluation of the applications. The financial aid account balance is currently \$32,000.

***Secretary TJ makes motion that the financial aid committee be granted a budget of \$57,000 to meet this year's projected financial aid needs and to make awards accordingly, and that a fundraising target of \$25,000 be established in order to cover the deficit. DB 2nds. 7/7 in favor.***



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### **Grievances**

VC DB reported that District 1 had responded to our Anderson report grievance suggesting that it was in the hands of WYS. DB was asked to formally request that D1 take up our grievance.

VC DB was asked to proceed with ECFC grievance in regard to the SYSA's decision to distribute pro-Seattle United information to ECFC's membership without consultation with, or authorization from, the ECFC board which was discussed at our prior meeting on 6/24/2009.

### **ECFC Alumni Association**

The Board of ECFC requests that current alumni coaches lead an effort to form an alumni association.

### **Treasurers Report**

Treasurer JF reported that he will be sending all board members a letter in regard to the ECFC conflicts of interest policy (Article 11 of the ECFC ByLaws) and he requests their cooperation in order to complete our annual tax returns.

JF reports that he will present an updated 2009/10 budget for approval at the August board meeting

JF reports that the Auditors report that they will be finished by the end of this month, possibly sooner.

JF indicated that reports being circulated that "ECFC had never been audited in 30 years" were erroneous and that the club was most recently audited by the IRS in 2004.

JF reported on plans for minimizing any issues with our A/R, by making plans now for holding player cards at the start of the fall season and communicating those plans well in advance.

### **Coaches Rep Report**

Coaches Reps DS and TP reported that they had fielded lots of questions and concerns from coaches regarding the Seattle United Plan.

### **Minutes**

***JF made motion to approve the ECFC Board Meeting Minutes from 6/24/2009 with one minor correction. DB 2nds. 7/7 in favor***

### **General Discussion**

There was a brief discussion about board meeting planning and notifications and club event planning.

The President requested that the Secretary summarize immediate action items from this board meeting via email for the board members who were unable to attend.



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*VC DB makes motion to adjourn shortly after 9pm, JF 2nds, 7/7 in favor.*