



AYSO—Region 13 Board Meeting

June 1, 2017

MINUTES

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Commissioner John Sweet at 7:32 p.m. A quorum was achieved with attendance by: Heidi Taylor, Neil Weinberger, Anne Tipton, Marco Quezada, DeWayne McMullin, Kevin Chun, Steve Burns, Mark Evans, Steve Haegelin, Francis Okwu, and Serj Stepanian. Also in attendance was Lisa Manning-Pratt, taking the minutes for the meeting (and was also confirmed as the new Secretary by vote of the Board later in the meeting).

Approval of Minutes: Sweet announced that the May 4, 2017, meeting minutes were approved via e-mail and are now posted on the Region 13 website.

Fields Report: Marco Quezada shared that a meeting has been scheduled for Monday, June 5, to discuss the field dimensions at Muir North. The Region has been asked to now run one diagonal field so as to not disturb the Muir High School softball field.

It was recommended that the U8 fields remain the way they are as it may not be possible to go 3 v 3. When lining the fields, U6 and U8 will remain the same, but U10 and U12 will be smaller. There will be a smaller penalty area with the mark at 10 yards instead of 12 yards. No changes for U14. It was suggested that Muir North be lined at one or two fields only due to limited parking in the area.

Sweet said that we will continue to make an assessment of the field quality. In addition, Region 13 will answer affirmatively to the request by the City of Pasadena to contribute to the annual weed abatement efforts at Muir North, Muir South, Blair and McKinley. The region is contributing approximately \$900 per field (depending upon square footage). Money will go directly to Pasadena Unified School District.

Proposed costs for weed abatement efforts (two applications at each site):

- John Muir Soccer Field North \$990 (130,680 sq ft)
- Campus South: \$858 (113,256sq ft)
- Blair Track: \$750 (99,000 sq ft)
- McKinley School: \$704.54 (93,000 sq ft)

The Board discussed a proposal by Blair High School to renovate its track and improve its soccer field in the process, with various possible contributions to be made by AYSO to the project. Sweet recommended that a separate committee be formed to discuss a strategy in how the region moves forward with fields controlled by PUSD and surrounding jurisdictions (including La Cañada Flintridge).

There is growing concern over the changing agendas of school and city officials that make it challenging to justify field infrastructure investments made to these organizations. Pasadena USD cannot offer a commitment of dedicated space for AYSO, even upon large contributions of capital. There has been a general understanding that the Region will carry its weight by contributing to the cost of new infrastructure and maintenance. Lately, however, the Region's use of fields and facilities has been increasingly curtailed. For example, at Muir North we have lost over half of the field to two baseball diamonds. Meanwhile at Muir Central, school programs claim they want to use the field at times which have historically been left to AYSO, and this will impact our the advanced play teams.

The Blair High School infrastructure project includes replacing the dirt track with a rubber track and make improvements inside field as well. They have approached the Region with a request to contribute to the project and submitted a proposal with a cost of the total project at \$858,000. Pasadena USD will cover that cost, but they would like to replace the grass inside the track at a cost of \$65,000, add

permanent lighting for field and track at a cost of \$396,000, with \$100,000 for electrical utilities allowances. Installation of turf is projected at \$1.2 million. Blair High School has said that there is new technology that will minimize the impact of this new lighting on the surrounding neighborhood.

The Board agreed that it is not worth the Region's investment in this project if it does not include lighting. Sweet proposed that the topic be discussed further at a future planning meeting, along with a discussion on what is the best way for the region to invest its funding via a larger strategy of working with the district and the City. This "Fields Planning Committee" would then make a recommendation to the Board at a later date.

Sponsorship Report: Sweet shared that an effective Sponsorship Program for the Region is needed. Data needs to be gathered to support the Region's platform in reaching out to potential sponsors later in the year. (This data includes number of AYSO athletes, families, volunteers, teams, and a justification for seeking sponsorship funds.)

Board Governance Matters:

- Sweet announced that Lisa Manning-Pratt has accepted the offer to join the Board as Secretary. Neil Weinberger made a motion to nominate Manning-Pratt to the Board as Secretary, Kevin Chun seconded. The motion passed without dissent.
- The Board will establish a new Operating Board position called the "AYSO United Liaison," to be held initially by John Fong, who was not present at the meeting today. AYSO United is a new club program. The Liaison's role is needed to help the Region stay abreast of opportunities for participation by players who can benefit from the program. The Liaison does not need to attend all Board meetings, but will communicate to Region 13 players when tryouts and other opportunities arise to participate in AYSO United. Sweet will ask John Fong to put together a presentation to the Board to talk about how the program works, including management structure.
- Heidi Taylor and Sweet announced their plans for the Regional Coach Administrator role. Heidi will continue to hold this position over the next year. However, Taylor and Sweet have reorganized the responsibilities of the role in order to adopt a more team-based approach to coaching administration. Region 13 will now have an Executive Coach Committee reporting to the Regional Coach Administrator – including three Directors of Coaching and a Director of Coach Instruction. This year's executive coach committee will consist of the following people:
 - Director of Coaching, 4U-8U – Francis Okwu
 - Director of Coaching, 10U-14U – Steve Burns
 - Director of Coaching, Upper Division – Adam Yatsko
 - Director of Coach Instruction – Anne TiptonThe coaching staff will continue to have Mark Evans as the Region's EXTRA Coordinator.
- Open positions on the Board currently include the Advanced Player Coordinator; Grad Series Coordinator; Director of Data Management, and Special Events Coordinator.
- Steve Haegelin is taking over for Pam Vigil as Tournament Director.

Fall Registration Report: Neil Weinberger announced he will obtain, clean and merge data from a number of sources (Blue Sombrero, eAYSO, Google Forms, lists of people collected during walk-in enrollment sessions, and so on). With this data, we can get a clear and comprehensive view of our players and volunteers for MY2017.

As of the meeting, Weinberger indicated that the Region now has 482 volunteers representing 588 separate roles (including coaching), 234 coaches (144 head coaches and 90 assistant coaches), 186 referees, and 114 team managers.

Serj Stepanian said that he needs help with the Region's walk-in enrollment session this Saturday, June 3, especially during the 11am – 1pm time slot. The third session is always the heaviest – 1,100 have signed up to date, and we expect several hundred more during this session.

Coach Report: The Board discussed options for the U4 and U5 program for the Fall. The Executive Coach Committee will work on different options at their next meeting.

Neil has been working on general numbers comparing our registration numbers from 2016 to 2017. There are differences to the data at this point due to the new registration system and this year our last big registration will happen this weekend. Discussion was held about the possible impacts for the fall. The Executive Coach Committee will continue to work on registration numbers and team numbers in coordination with Serj.

Looking forward to team formation, Steve Burns has been thinking about how to improve our player ratings system for players who come to the region with no ratings.

EXTRA Program: Mark Evans reported that six teams have enough players and volunteers to be formed:

- Girls and Boys 13U
- Girls and Boys 12U
- Girls and Boys 11U

The following teams are still being worked on:

- Girls and Boys 10U
- Girls and Boys 9U

One of the teams that didn't get formed was going to be coached by Francis Okwu. The selected players were strong candidates, but no parents would step up to referee. One parent asked if they could pay for refereeing – akin to a referee deposit in a tournament. Most EXTRA teams would get their referee deposit refunded; but this team would likely not. Discussion was held. The board feels strongly that the team should be required to produce volunteers: we are an all volunteer organization, and EXTRA teams should be held to the same (if not higher) standard of volunteerism as AYSO requires of teams in its other programs.

Financial Report: DeWayne presented a proposed Annual Budget. This budget shows the Region breaking even for the Fall season, holding in tact our reserve for upcoming infrastructure/fields investments. The board looked at the estimated revenues and expenditures in the proposed budget. It was recommended to spend the money needed for this Fall for a one year transition to the new referee uniforms. Income per player was clarified with the new fee structure of Blue Sombrero automatically taking out the AYSO fee for credit card payments. DeWayne will make updates as a result of the

discussion and will seek executive board approval via email in the next few days since the document is now due to the Area.

Refund Policy: John Sweet revised the Refund Policy to reflect the new costs imposed by Blue Sombrero processing fees and the non-refundable AYSO National Membership Fee.

Referee Report: Kevin Chun reported that the Referee Staff meeting was held last night. Referee staff will bring three volunteers to the walk-in enrollment session this Saturday. All referee courses for the Fall have been scheduled. Discussion has been held about the new rules including the build out line. The referee staff is requesting that the first two games for 10U this season are friendly games since the build out line rule will change the dynamics and teams and referees will need time to adjust.

Other New Business – Sister Regions: Neil Weinberger reported that Jane Mason is organizing a nationwide “sister region” program which will pair rich and poor regions, and Region 13 has been paired with Region 1481 in Birch Run, Michigan. The immediate need is to provide financial support for proposed travel by the Regional Commissioner, Melissa Aldrich to attend the NAGM conference in Newport Beach. The anticipated cost will be about \$2,000 for registration, hotel and flight. After discussion, Taylor motioned a budget of \$2,000 to be spent either on the trip to NAGM or to support other current needs in Region 1481, to be coordinated between Neil, Jane Mason and the RC of Region 1481. Chun seconded the motion. Discussion was held. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of Action Items:

- Discuss Blair Proposal & Fields Strategy – Fields Planning Committee
- 4U/5U Brainstorming – Executive Coach Committee
- Registration Numbers & Team Numbers – Neil Weinberger and Serj Stepanian
- Improving Player Ratings – Steve Burns
- Updated Budget & Submission by John Sweet – DeWayne McMullin
- New Referee Uniforms – Kevin Chun and DeWayne McMullin
- Neil Weinberger will coordinate with the Region 1481 RC and Jane Mason regarding donation of \$2,000
- Helping with the walk-in enrollment session on Saturday June 3 – Everyone

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, July 6, 2017

ADJOURN – H. Taylor motioned to close the meeting. S. Haeglin seconded the motion. The meeting closed at 10:41 p.m.