

Region 18 Board Meeting, May 8, 2018

Hennessey's, Manhattan Beach, 7:30 PM

0. Attendance:

Krista Skinner, Charlie Abbott, Steve Abrams, Russ Allen, Dan Angress, David Brantly, Scott Champagne, Todd Collins, Bill Crader, Kim Digilio, Byron Eguchi, Lou Figueroa, Jana Goodstadt, Woody Hauck, Steve Hershkowitz, Michael Hinz, Mark Hodson, Molly Jolls, Andrew Lelchuk, Chris Otey, Bill Power, Karl Primm, Rose Rocchio, Andrew Rogerson, Megan Schultz, Ron Tani, Chris Wong (non-voting)

1. Call to Order:

The meeting began at 7:33 PM and had a quorum (20/30)

2. Review of Prior Minutes

- MOTION: Approve Minutes of the April 2018 meeting with amendments.
APPROVED, with no opposition.

3. Regional Commissioner's Report

Krista Skinner noted that she attended Regional Commissioner training to help her with new role. It was reiterated during the training that there will be a \$2.50 per player increase in MY2019 for National per player fees and a \$25 per volunteer fee assessed to each Region. National is working through the implementation process. The \$25 fee ~~.50 meeting~~ was approved by vote at the National Board Meeting and will be ratified at the National Annual General Meeting (NAGM) in June. The \$25 per volunteer fee will be implemented without being voted on. With approximately 800 volunteers in Region 18, our cost would be about \$20,000 next year. Krista will be looking for ways to ensure that registered volunteers are actually working as volunteers in order to curtail some of the cost.

Krista reported that Andrew Lelchuk will be running for a position on the National Board of Directors, and is one of six candidates.

Krista reported that the Strategic Planning Meeting held for Region 18 on May 6 was successful. Krista will send notes later detailing the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis that was done.

Krista announced that AYSO's Regional Assessment Program (RAP) will be a focus of the June Board meeting.

A check from Region 18 was presented to the City of Manhattan Beach to help cover the cost of the Manhattan Village Re-turf Project. The City has declared that any excess funds for the project will not be refunded but instead will go to other city-wide projects.

Region 18 Board Meeting, May 8, 2018

Hennessey's, Manhattan Beach, 7:30 PM

(Not sure about the previous sentence – we don't expect to have any excess funds for the re-turf project – maybe this was a note about the ongoing field cost discussion? – I'm fine just striking it) Russ Allen emphasized that Region 18 should continue to gather funds for future field maintenance.

The Manhattan Beach City Council will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, May 15 to discuss field costs and field allocations. It is expected that a non-resident fee will be proposed along with an hourly rate for field usage, with implementation likely in the Spring. Krista encouraged anyone interested to attend the meeting.

Krista began discussion regarding team sizes for the Fall season, since Region 18 has not been compliant with AYSO National specifications for Divisions up to U12, with the objective to come up with proposals to be put to a vote in a future meeting.

- Generally, for Divisions up to U12, Region 18 plays with one or two players more than specified by AYSO due primarily to lack of Coaches and concern over playing fields created by smaller teams.
- Krista estimated that having one less player per team would result in needing 2.5 more Coaches per Division, for a total of 26 additional Coaches.
- Bill Crader asked whether it would be up to each Division Commissioners to decide the final team sizes. Krista said yes, but that the girls' and boys' Divisions must be consistent at each age group.
- Russ Allen stated that field space was not an issue, but Division Commissioners may need to accept grass fields at some ages (e.g., U12).
- Bill Crader suggested that changes be focused at the lowest ages so that we don't take on too much and can roll gradually into AYSO National Guidelines over time.

For the U5 and U6 Divisions, the National AYSO standard is four players, while Region 18 has played with six.

- There was discussion of making play more activity-based with smaller fields in a "jamboree" style.
- Mark Hodson recommended further thought as a jamboree style would eliminate attachment to a team which is an important part of the AYSO experience. Andrew Lelchuk agreed, stating that we need to decide whether we are in the soccer business or the child development business since they are two separate things. Russ Allen pointed out that the City does need to view AYSO as a soccer program.
- Mark Hodson suggested using one coach for both teams in a game to preserve the competition aspect.
- Jana Goodstadt stated that there were no real issues with finding volunteers at BU5.
- Scott Champagne noted that at lower ages, teams generally have missing players each week. Megan Schultz and Mark Hodson agreed. Andrew

Region 18 Board Meeting, May 8, 2018

Hennessey's, Manhattan Beach, 7:30 PM

Lelchuk suggested that we leave the roster size the same and reduce the number of players on the field. Mark Hodson agreed provided we not be as rigid with substitutions.

- The suggestion for these Divisions was to play five players on the field with seven on each team.

For the U7 and U8 Division, the National AYSO standard is four players, while Region 18 has played with eight. Russ Allen pointed out that U7, U8, and U10 are the hardest Divisions for which to find field space.

- Krista suggested that field sizes should be smaller if there are fewer players on the field. Chris Otey pointed out that smaller fields worked well in the Spring and that the fields were too big in the Fall.
- Krista's suggestion was to consider playing seven players in these Divisions with nine on each team.

For the U10 Division, the National AYSO standard is six players, while Region 18 has played with ~~10~~9.

- Krista noted that compromising at eight players would be awkward.
- Molly Jolls noted that it is very hard to find additional Coaches at this Division.
- Bill Crader felt that volunteers will appear if needed.
- Molly suggested that parents be told that they need to volunteer in some capacity to secure a spot for their child. Rose Rocchio suggested messaging at the time of registration.
- Woody Hauck stated that GU10 and GU12 would be able to find Coaches and that smaller teams and smaller fields would be preferable.
- It was suggested that U10 play with seven players on the field with nine per team.
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For the U12 Division, the National AYSO standard is nine players, while Region 18 has been playing with 11.

- David Brantley suggested playing with 10 and having 13 players on each team.
- Woody Hauck noted that it is awkward to play with ten players on the field.
- It was noted that it is also difficult for league teams to adjust during Area play when they can only play nine. Kim Digilio suggested that we do not change team sizes just to accommodate those few teams that advance to Area play.
- Andrew Lelchuk noted that based on recent experience, Region 18 has not been at a disadvantage when going to Area play and having to adjust team sizes.

Region 18 Board Meeting, May 8, 2018

Hennessey's, Manhattan Beach, 7:30 PM

- [It was suggested that U12 play with nine players on the field with twelve per team.](#)

Bill Crader stated that we should cap the number of teams and form a wait list until enough volunteers are found to Coach but Krista maintained that we should n't turn away any players. Molly Jolls suggested that Division Commissioners determine a registration cap with Byron Eguchi, then start a wait list that can be cleared once there are enough volunteers.

Krista stated that there would be an online vote or a vote at the next meeting, along with a change to the Policies and Procedures document for Region 18.

4. Finance Report

Krista Skinner commenced discussion on a proposed MY18 budget. The proposed budget showed revenues for MY18 of \$547,125 versus \$605,000 budgeted for MY17 and \$530,800 projected for MY17. Expenditures were budgeted at \$499,450 for MY18 versus \$457,150 budgeted for MY17 and \$437,910 forecast for MY17.

It was asked why it was necessary to be very conservative on expenditures. Andrew Lelchuk replied that the budget is used for planning by National. Michael Hinz added that as a Board, we need to be good stewards of the funds and need to be spending on things such as better equipment.

Karl Primm expressed concern that the contribution to surplus was going down by approximately \$100,000 from last year's forecast and would not leave enough to fund future field improvements. Karl asked whether a field improvement line item could be added to the budget. Andrew replied that this is not possible because the line items are input into the AYSO National system and must sync with their line items.

Dan [Ingress-Angress](#) requested that some of the Clinic Training Expenses be used to set up a Coach Mentoring Program. To be cost-efficient, representatives of the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) would be paid to train mentors through two one-hour sessions. Andrew felt that it was not necessary to use PCA, but Rose Rocchio noted that this type of training was very effective for the Hermosa Beach Youth Basketball league. Krista agreed that based on her experience, training for Coach Mentors is necessary.

Russ Allen emphasized that Region 18 does need to set aside funds each year to re-turf fields as needed. Russ also requested additional funds to pay for the additional goals that would be needed to accommodate the smaller fields to be used in the Fall. Krista added \$3,000 to the budget for additional equipment.

Region 18 Board Meeting, May 8, 2018

Hennessey's, Manhattan Beach, 7:30 PM

As a result of the discussion, \$3,000 was added to the Equipment line item and the expenditures were budgeted at \$502,450.

- MOTION: Approve MY18 Budget as proposed and amended.
APPROVED, with no opposition.

5. Registrar's Report

Byron Eguchi reported that registration is open and 327 players have registered, slightly less than last year at this time. However, there have been no e-mail blasts yet.

Scott Champagne stated that he will be ramping up social media to make people aware that registration is open.

Michael Hinz suggested that every e-mail to parents should have a byline to encourage volunteerism.

6. Field Report

Russ Allen asked Board members to let him know if they will be putting up banners so that he can ask the City.

Russ reiterated that fields and playoff formats may change from historical standards due to the smaller teams.

David Brantley asked whether the pre-season can be longer. Russ replied that this is decided by each Division Commissioner.

7. Technology Report

Scott Champagne noted that the website has been changed to better fit the target audience.

Scott offered to take any "wish lists" from Board members.

Scott may be re-doing the Region 18 logo and is considering using social media to run a player-inspired logo design contest. Jana Goodstadt volunteered to spearhead the contest.

Scott is also creating multiple ways for parents to communicate with the Region.

Region 18 Board Meeting, May 8, 2018

Hennessey's, Manhattan Beach, 7:30 PM

8. Uniforms

Krista Skinner reported that Nedra Yost is waiting for finalization of team sizes before making her initial uniform order.

9. Referee Committee

Charlie Abbott is working on Referee class scheduling.

10.. Coach Committee Report

Steve Hershkowitz noted that there is no Coach training class schedule yet and he is awaiting feedback from the Division Commissioners about what they need.

Krista Skinner noted that and Advanced Coaches' class and an Intermediate Coaches' class will be given on the weekend of August 11 at either Manhattan Beach or Hawthorne. Krista noted that the classes have been reduced to one day.

11. Division Commissioners' Reports

Woody Hauck will be trying a "silent quarter" in his Division and will report how that goes. Mark Hodson suggested that a silent day be called a "players' day".

Rose Rocchio asked whether the Referee Points Program used in BU12 will be used Region-wide. Krista Skinner stated that she would leave that up to each Division Commissioners but she would want consistency between boys' and girls' Divisions of the same age group.

12. Other Business

None

13. Summary of Motions Approved

- ☐ MOTION: Approve Minutes of the April 2018 meeting with amendments.
APPROVED, with no opposition.
- ☐ MOTION: Approve MY18 Budget as proposed and amended.
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Region 18 Board Meeting, May 8, 2018

Hennessey's, Manhattan Beach, 7:30 PM

14. Summary of Motions Rejected

None.