

Arlington Soccer Association
Rec Committee Meeting
February 10, 2015 7:30 pm

Attendees

Justin W. (ASA Executive Director), John M. (Rec Chair & NWL), Matt C. & Brian K. (TOR), David G. (LGT), Ron M. (PK), Dave H. (AO), Liz M-M (Revs), Tiffany S. (CC), Mary B. (ASA Staff), Dan L. (SASC), Dan F. (REC Czar), Kassie S. (AK), Chuck S. & Chad G. (Civ)

1. Notetaker – David G. Lightning
2. **January minutes** approved
3. **Budget Update** – first draft went to finance committee
 - **Rec fee to increase by \$10**, first time in three years. Increase to cover expenses of uniforms (slightly higher than anticipated) and also cover other rising costs (equipment, administration, etc.)
 - Budget **adjusts how certain expenses carried within ASA**. Auxiliary programs will also make similar adjustments to give Rec coaches more resources, unifies training within ASA, strengthen ASA as a whole.
4. **Kinder Team Size**. Previously, Rec Comm had discussed changing optimal team size to 10. Some guidance charts reflected this, others did not. Issue revisited. **Decided to return to 12**, but keep it at a firm cap. More than 12 not workable. Change will be effective Fall 2015. Spring 2015 to be left as-is.
5. **Silent Soccer**. Keeping in tradition of having it in the spring only, on Mother's Day weekend (only one game that weekend). **9 May approved** for date. Will discuss "enforcement" issues later.
6. **Age Group Assistants**. Training of pilot assistants Tuesday Feb. 17th, 6 - 7:30pm. Three candidates (LGT, NWL, SASC). Mingus, Gould to orient, others welcome too. Pilot program to begin now.
7. **Dan Stuff**. His first very exciting Rec Comm meeting. Discussed how he will work with Rec and with the Rec Comm. For example, asked if he should be intervening on certain issues or staying out (basically was told that okay to intervene where/when he wants/has an opinion).
 - He is **okay with coaches contacting him directly**, RE: issues that they have.
 - Will continue to send out **age-appropriate "coaching session"** suggestions each week. Noted that his software tracks how many people opened his last message – 70%, which he says is about average. Weekly emails will also include important upcoming events, like the coach trainings.
 - Will post his **calendar on-line**. Willing to work with coaches, watch them run a session, etc.
 - Asked what Rec Comm felt **his role should be**/what Bob did. Replies included:
 - Coach behavior, complaints against coaches, sportsmanship issues. Will keep a list of people to see if certain names keep coming up.
 - Sounding board/psychological support for coaches who encounter issues – other coaches, families, problem kids, etc.
 - Ditto for Club Managers – are we doing it right? What can we do better?

- Helping coaches change/adjust – adjusting strategies for bigger fields/teams as kids age; helping that coach who's 0-8 with one goal all season, etc.
 - Within the Rec Program as a whole, help provide suggestions for future direction of program, be the voice of policy, help give Rec Comm a direction to grow in.
 - Work with Coach O., especially on Kinder.
 - Will make us aware of community based/non-parent coaches who are available
 - Looking for a map of Arlington with clubs overlay – Brian K. will provide.
8. **Update on Middle School Working Group.** Issue is a fall-off in participation in 7th and 8th grades, especially 8th. Team sizes down some, numbers down some, but mainly it's participation. MS working group said this is not a "panic" moment but something that needs to be looked at. Rec Comm discussion followed:
- Future outlook is better than in past: year by year rising numbers from 2012/13 to now; "student population bubble"; also ADP will cap out at 6th grade, feeding at least some of those kids back into the Rec system
 - Expanded team size can help but no cure-all; 30-person squads that can't meet quorum
 - Issue is not only soccer – all sports seem to have this "slim spot" of reduced participation
 - **Need more information** – why do kids drop out? What determines why some stick? Why/how is HS program revitalized? Solution:
 - **Propose meeting with 7th, 8th grade kids** in March – location TBD.
 - To include: David G., Justin, Tiffany, Chad, Ron
9. **Membership issue.** Importance of getting to know candidates for Board. Meetings with candidates in past have included Justin and candidates... and no one else. Need to participate.
10. **Pizza Meetings.**
- **Spring meeting Weds. March 18, 6pm ASA.**
 - Summer meeting Thursday, August 27. (First game Sept 19th, therefore schedule due out Sept 12th, counting backward...) Please inform spouses if they are planning vacations
11. **Other Points:**
- **Gregory Denkler**, former Aces Club Manager, Rec Comm member, great soccer goalie, passed away after a struggle with cancer. ASA will honor his service, soccer skills and legacy in some way in the future.
 - 2nd grade DOB – this weekend last chance to bring in docs by hand before the "guaranteed return to team" deadline. Office closed Monday but staff will verify docs that day too.
 - "Special Requests" due March 18.
 - ASA to be open late, last Weds. of February (the 25th).
 - Plans for next meetings set: March – hopefully short; no April meeting planned.
12. **Next Meeting March 10th, 7:30.** Meeting adjourned 9:15