

MINUTES
Benicia Arsenal FC Board Meeting
Tuesday – May 25th, 2021 6:30pm
Remote meeting

Board Members Present: Yann Jouvenot, Mike Distler, Marissa Murphy-Becerra, Mike Munn, Rodrigo Escalante, Zoraida McNorton, Paul Gigliotti, Derek Weldon

Guests: Graham Mayle, Scott Swoboda, Paul Gigliotti, David Osada, Reena Thomas, Ernie Zambrano, June Tanaka, Vinnie Campanille, Marcial Chao, Mike Walsh, Adriana Diaz, Gia Quinn, Vincen and Laurence, David Balter

Meeting Called to Order: 6:35pm

Review May Agenda: Approved unanimously

Review and approve April Minutes: Approved unanimously

Public Comment: See Attachment [below](#).

President Report:

- Tournament: Marissa had discussions with Jose, Reba and Dora. Meeting with Graham on Friday to submit the sanctioning information.
- Field updates: Girl twisted her ankle on Field 4. Need to address this with Wendy.
- Opening Day: August 21st. Need to secure Field 3. Yann to contact DJ Ken Anolin.
- Contingency Plan for Graham. Appointment in Cyprus booked in July. Other options in Romania or Mexico City. Should be back in 3 weeks' time (Mid-June).

Vice President Report:

- One player was red carded. Need more details. Suspended for 4 games (but player is aging out).

Referee Coordinator:

- Absent

Select Coordinator Report:

- Derek will be contacted for disciplinary coordinator. Need info on numbers of teams, sources for referees, etc. Will touch base with Graham on Friday. Not a lot of volunteers yet. Yann: have a firm date to kill the idea if not enough support.
- Still no spirit wear coordinator. Reached out to two contacts Scott gave her, but both declined. Where is the merchandise? Rodrigo to reach out to 2 potential coordinators. If no commitment, Yann will send a club wide email.
- Yann needs to change list of people having access to mini storage.
- Communication on return to play. Is June 15th still the case? Need to send date for informational night.
- Gia: 15 players signed up. Are electronic forms for concussion forms good enough? Yes (Graham).

DOC Report:

- Tryouts concluded. Different format. Projecting 15 players. We may have a U8 Boys team for the first time in years. 90 new players showed up.

- Rec registration: near 400 players. Looking good so far.
- Oakland Roots partnership renewed. Club night should be scheduled soon. Possible dates: September 11th or September 18th. Decide to shoot for September 11th.
- Zoraida: Will we follow up on the comments from parents? Need to address issues of parents.

Recreation Coordinator Report:

- Fantastic numbers on registration. We could be at 500 when all is done.
- Everybody on the board should put more attention on rec.
- Will school fields be open for fall? Graham does not seem to think it will be a problem in Fall.

Registrar Report:

- 374 players signed up for rec. 15 for top soccer. Competitive team registration is open.

Treasurer Report:

- Presentation of budget from last month.

Other Business/Calendar Items:

Closed Session:

Next Meeting: June 22nd, 2021, from 6:30-9:00pm via Zoom.

Public Comment:

- June Tanaka: parent of 2007 Boys player for 6 years. Kai enjoyed playing soccer all his life, but that has been deteriorating(lack of interest). Under Coach Ted, ambiance and performance was much better. Since he left, the team has had a series of coaches (none for more than 1 year, 5 coaches in 5 years). Ariel did a good job, but he left. Only 4 players left since 2018. Hearing that Hector is leaving, more team members are leaving. Loss of confidence. Need very good coaches. Only have a few years left to play. What is the goal of the program at this point? What is happening with coaches? There seems to be an exodus.
- David Balter: 2007 Boys team parent as well. Jamie is second son through Arsenal program. Need for continuity of coaching. Oldest boy had a much more positive experience. Having a local (Solano based) coach helped with that. If new coach comes, it will be 5th coach in 5 years. Notice a drop off in number of higher level teams. Our fees are higher than in other clubs. Do we need to pay our coaches more? Jesse played with Paulo de Souza for 5 years.
- Vinnie Campanile: is there anything that can be done to recruit Thomas?
- Marcial Chao: 2007 Boys team. Kai tried out for Diablo Valley, but decided to stay in Arsenal. For Kai there are a lot of life lessons to be learned from being part of a team. We need the right infrastructure for the boys, and a consistent coach is needed.
- Ernesto Zambrano: 2007 Boys team. Aidan left team last year. Kai has just accepted a position in Diablo. Sad that boys had to leave. Better players are always looking to advance skills. Decline in competitive level teams is also hard to witness.
- David Osada: wanted to get more involved with discussions. Daughter plays with Oren in 2010 Girls team. What can Benicia actually offer and what our identity should be. Building a better base on the rec level would help. Observations of other clubs makes him think that the ball is not moving in our teams. Daughter was stuck in one position for a year. Are players being developed this way? Kids that don't want to run are accepted on comp teams. That should not happen.
- Chris Diaz: daughter just joined Arsenal this season. Need more help on the Rec side, to develop new players. If rec does not feed worthy players to Arsenal, then the pool quality drops. If better structure for training in rec, then kids would be better prepared for Comp. Why do rec kids not join Comp program in higher numbers? A lot of kids like to play multiple sports, but the price of the club also turns people away. David O: Some parents had older kids in comp and didn't like

the program. need to break the barriers between rec, academy and comp. More scrimmages should be played. Ernesto: being a part of a different club gives him other perspective. Other clubs continued to develop their kids during the pandemic.

- Vincent and Laurence Issier: what is the mission statement of the club. Daughter played rec, then went to competitive. Fun aspect of rec should not necessarily be reproduced in Comp. Kids need to be more challenged. Kids are being affected by exodus of players. Competitive program should also be about winning. The league needs to think about the goalkeeper. Only 1 training and 1 hour a week for all ages together is not enough. Kids do not want to be GK, lack of training, lack of respect. It is a shame that nothing was done.

- Brian Thomas: boys have played rec, academy and comp. Heather Walsh and Brian have coached in rec and academy. There is a lot of talent in town. Son Joel (2008) is playing with 2007 boys. Why are we not working more to nurture kids from one level to the next. There is a lot of talent in academy and rec. Marcial: completely agree with these points. League needs to help move kids up.

- Mike Walsh: echoes what Brian said. Benicia is just small, therefore we really need to figure out what our identity is. Are we going to develop our players to be the best at any position (or just one), and then they can move on elsewhere? Or will we develop any kid that signs up for the competitive program to a level that will frustrate other players.

- Graham: encourage parents to talk to coaches or DOC directly. It's rare to have coaches follow teams over years. Some coaches are better at coaching certain groups. Changing coaches can be beneficial. The fact that good players leave is inevitable. Levels of play could be as good as they want if the players stayed in Benicia. Individual skills have gotten better. Coaches leave because they relocate. Families should consult with coach before tryouts. Children at certain ages may also regress somewhat due to puberty and growth spurts. Chris D: why do some coaches have many teams? Graham: it depends on the coach situation (some can only manage one team, others will need three teams to make the contract agreeable). Goalkeeper's training has been disrupted by the pandemic. Need more education for parents and players about the role of goalkeeper. Benicia is limited by size of the player pool. Players get better, teams get better-need to commit parents to that.

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