

MYS Board Meeting – February 8, 2024

In Attendance: Louise Waxler, Ian Harper, John Forte, Neal Seth, Akeem Al-Attar, Kate Fisher, David Fikes, Jason Monfort, Paula Abbate, Kate Hance, Alex Hahn, Tim Ryerson

Executive Director Update – Louise Waxler

Recreation Updates

- Spring Recreation Registration – 1260 players
- We have seen a 5% growth in Rec programs from 2022 to 2023 season
- McLean ECNL '07 member Carrie Helfrich scores for U17 USWNT in the CONCACAF tournament
- MYS partnered with Marcelo Valencia for indoor training summer 2024... there will be profit sharing
- Signed with the Coder School to partner at the intersections of soccer and technology
- Spring Hill Elementary School has been added as a new after school program partner

Travel Updates

- Due to no ECNL-R league games in the spring, the predominance of our teams will play in the NCSL ESS league this spring
- All coaches are in compliance with First Aid, Concussion, and Safe Sport Training
- MYS will enter a women's team into the CCL Pro League this summer

Finance – Paula Abbate

- Kate Fisher was elected and confirmed as the new MYS Treasurer
- Field Development fund on track
- Budget versus actual at the halfway point is on track

ECNL Alliance Discussion

- On Feb. 5, MYS leadership and the Board Chair met with ECNL leadership to discuss recent reports that the VA Union was at risk of losing its membership in ECNL due to a continued decline of performance over the past few years
- During this meeting the President of ECNL confirmed that during an upcoming ECNL team review the Brave soccer club (an LLC between BRYC and Vienna Soccer Clubs) would lose its membership and that the VA Union could lose its membership as well
- ECNL Leadership strongly recommended that if the Brave was to merge with the VA Union, the ECNL membership review committee would view the move as a positive example of improving the youth soccer development pathway in Northern Virginia, and increasing competition in Fairfax County
- It was noted that the boys program was at the most risk of losing its membership ranking near the bottom of all teams in the national league... and that the girls program, while currently recognized nationally as mid-tier performers, showed a decline in performance as well
- Previous discussions with technical leadership had suggested that a future merger would be beneficial to strengthening the player pool... using the SYC alliance shortfalls as a means to inform good and bad approaches for such models
- Technical leadership agreed that even though the girls program was not threatened, that a merger would strengthen that program as well
- Technical leadership felt that this move would ultimately protect the Elite player development pathway for MYS

- As a result of these findings, and due to the urgent need to decide on a course of action, a special board meeting was called on the 6th of February 2024
- The board voted on a measure to approve a merger with BRYC and Vienna to create a new entity as the holder of the ECNL membership for girls and boys, creating a pathway to elite player development under ECNL membership with each club having equal ownership rights in the club... the measure received unanimous approval
- Management was asked to evaluate the existing Vienna and BRYC ECNL LLC (The Brave) construct:
 - This would include amending current bylaws to include MYS as a stakeholder member
 - The board conveyed that they need to look at the overarching structure of the bylaws, but prefer the establishment of a new LLC entity... to be looked into in the coming weeks
 - Management was informed that MYS outside counsel needs to be kept involved as this new entity is created
 - Bylaws need to compensate for the admission of new partners
 - Bylaws also need to consider the construct of the new entity's board
- Need to craft a Letter of Intent to help codify MYS's commitment in principle
- All parties have agreed to develop a jointly crafted message for public release
- The potential GFR partnership will now be routed through the new entity vice with MYS

Other

- The board unanimously approved minutes for the Nov 9th 2023 board meeting and the supplemental board meeting on the 6th of February 2024
- As stated above, Board resolution for Kate Fisher to serve as the board treasurer approved by unanimous vote
- Tim Ryerson discussed with the board the COGEO platform for fundraising campaigns and enhanced partnerships and member engagements
 - Tim also discussed collaboration with and donations from Burke & Herbert
 - Tim discussed using entities like COGEO in the past to help with marketing decks
 - Costs for COGEO would be \$2K a month and MYS could cancel at any time
 - The board unanimously approved launching COGEO services and revisit how things are going in 6 month's time to ensure ROI before continuing; however, the board reiterated the importance of ensuring data privacy and also asked that Tim and Louise capture performance metrics
- Women's Premier Soccer League (WPSL) has approached MYS to continue the elevation of the girls program for summer, this would be at least 5 teams in the local area as a part of a nationwide program of 129 teams... more to follow

Executive Session

Respectfully submitted,
John Forte, Vice Chair