BIFC Board Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2022, 7:30 PM

Via zoom

Board Members in attendance: Peter Murchie, Elizabeth Chambers, Ian McCallum, Phil Avison, Sherry LaMonica, Liming McMillan, Ben Dugan, Jeff Shepard, Brett Deits, Ryan Daugherty, and Savannah Mabee. Also attending as guests were Jim Handy and Amii Thompson.

President's Report (Peter Murchie): Peter provided an overview of the agenda. Peter noted that we are now in the full swing of the Fall season, and the BHS girls soccer season. Peter next discussed the upcoming AGM. Amii Thompson and Jim Handy have joined the meeting as guests, as both are interested in joining the Board – Amii as Secretary, and Jim as Director of Volunteers. Each of the Board members introduced themselves and their connection to the Club.

Greg circulated a copy of the September meeting minutes to the Board. On a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Peter next discussed the Annual General Meeting. It’s an opportunity to meet with the members of the club, elect officers, and amend bylaws if appropriate. We need to post the agenda 30 days in advance. Elizabeth circulated the agenda and Board positions to the Board in advance. Peter asked for input on the agenda, the date, and also discussed whether the meeting should be in person or virtually. The Board agreed to schedule the meeting for November 15 at 7 PM. The Board turned to reviewing the proposed agenda; the Board had no changes to the proposed agenda. The only votes are to approve last year’s minutes and vote for new officers. The Board discussed the various positions, terms, and interest.

Financial Report (Brett Deits and Liming McMillan): Liming previously circulated the financials. BIFC remains in a strong financial position, with increased participation in various programs, and should finish the year positively. Another driver for being ahead is that BIFC was unable to identify a head of the girls’ program and Ian and Phil taking on more than originally planned. Brett pointed out that the recreational program had expenses in September related to t-shirts. Liming, Brett and the Board discussed the expenses and budget for field rental in particular. With respect to our balance sheet overall, Brett noted that BIFC tries to make sure that we have 6 months of operating funds in the event of an emergency (which was very helpful during COVID). BIFC also has a Future Field fund putting capital aside to help address the major field shortage issue on the Island. Finally, Brett provided an update on the Club getting a credit card given the inconvenience of using checks currently; BIFC is working with Bank of America, which requires a personal guaranty, which Brett is agreeable to doing. The Board will be putting controls in place for how the card can be used, and also have additional transparency. Brett and Liming will bring a proposal to the next Board meeting with respect to the controls for the credit card.

DOC / TD Report (Ian McCallum and Phil Avison): Ian opened by describing the enthusiasm among the 1st and 2nd graders as well as middle school students playing this evening. We are about 2/3 through the Fall season for the recreational programs. The energy levels for all the programs is great. Ian reported that the recreational programs are doing great. TOPS soccer has not had as many kids as Ian would like, with great volunteering among the high school kids. The select program had a new goalkeeper coach come out to work with the goalkeepers, and Ian is working with him on potentially scheduling him to work ongoing with the goalkeepers. The select program has had some issue with smoke the last two weekends, including cancellations right before kickoff, cancellations generally, and last minute moving locations. Phil provided an overview of Select and the placement of the teams; for the most part the placements have been a good fit. Ian noted that the club is making adaptions for the days when there is the haunted hay ride by Parks at Battlepoint; Ian working with the high school on schedules. Phil noted that the Select teams have had their practices reduced by 15 minutes to try to maximize the daylight, and this is expected to increase. The lack of lit fields continues to provide significant challenges.

With respect to the smoke issues, Peter noted that if you forfeit a game with WPL it’s a $1,000 fine plus scheduling and referee fees. This has become acute for some teams, when attempting the reschedule games due to smoke. There has also seemed to be inflexibility with clubs with respect to the forfeits versus rescheduling as a general matter. Health experts have said that youth should not play soccer at smoke levels above 100, and at least one team has had acute reactions when playing in smoky conditions. The executive board is looking to draft a letter to WPL about their policies and approach to the smoke issues.

Ian noted BIFC is working on scheduling winter skills programs, but there is difficulty finding indoor space. This is scheduled to open for registration November 1. Spring soccer will open in January. October 18th is senior night for BHS girls soccer and asked that Board members come cheer on the girls. The 04-05 boys and girls are looking to play Presidents Day tournament in Phoenix, AZ. Ian is gathering information to share with families. The 06-07 group is getting ready for the Manchester trip March 30-April 9, 2023. Approximately 50 kids and adults are going from the club. Ian next reported on a Everton Camp in July for ages 6-13. There would also be a coaches clinic. After further discussion, Ian will provide a specific proposal for the Board to review and approve. Finally, Ian is working with a coach in Canada to discuss potentially having teams do some travel to Canada and hosting Canadian teams here.

There being no further business, on a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was called to a close at 9:15 PM.