

# Illinois Fire Juniors

## February 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Brenda Seger Kris Nutt Kevin Byrd Myron King  
Tim Koch Matt Frank Erika Hunt Pete Kowall  
Frank Schuler Amanda Esparza Chris Downing Jeremy Kelley  
Scott Hargus Chrissy Mora Teresa Dubravec  
Paul Cadwell Miranda Frank

**Absent:** Julie Hinman Alicia Chaon

***The meeting started at 7:01 pm and concluded at 9:15 pm at the IFJ Offices. The Board then went into closed session.***

### **General Discussion Topics:**

#### **Vote (Kris)**

Resolutions – Tim Koch was unanimously voted in as President as of March 1. Chris Downing was unanimously voted in as Vice President as of March 1. This has created an opening for Uniform Director. In addition, Julie Hinman has resigned as Marketing/Sponsorship Director effective February 28, and Kevin Byrd has resigned as Volunteer Director effective May 20, creating opening in these areas as well. The following assistants have volunteered/been assigned to the board as follows: Jeremy Kelley – Marketing & Sponsorship, Erika Hunt – Volunteers, and Miranda Frank – Uniforms.

#### **President's Topics (Brenda/Frank)**

Brenda – Thanks to everyone for all you have done for Illinois Fusion/Illinois Fire Juniors.

Frank – The lease for the fields has been officially signed. He is working on securing the maintenance of the fields starting in March. 250 kids are currently on the waitlist for Spring PCSL, which is much higher than at this time last year.

#### **Chicago Fire Topics (Caddy)**

Chicago Fire Soccer Club Update – Trip to Soccer.com for an overview of uniforms was very informative. Clubs will run their own spirit wear sales moving forward. IFJ is going to team with European Sports. Chicago Fire Technical Summit for Club DOC's from February 20-23, and Myron will be in attendance. Game Night needs to be confirmed. Jeremy will work thru Chris on this. March 3 is a free pre-season game for the Chicago Fire.

#### **Fields Update (Tim)**

Update – Many articles have been published during the last week since our All Club Meeting. Survey is coming out this week to garner interest from our families to help guide our direction. Many conversations are taking place.

#### **Merger with PCSL (Tim)**

Target date of 7/1 – Proposed By-Laws have been sent out for review, along with a proposed board structure. Plan to have final version for review by March board meeting, with a vote in the April board meeting. Please provide your comments by Sunday.

#### **Vision/Mission/Philosophy Recap (Erika)**

Vision/Mission/Philosophy Statement – The final version was sent out for pre-reading. With adjustments, all were approved. Caddy brought up the Chicago Fire Core Values to consider as well. He will send those to Kris for review.

#### **Fundraising and Sponsorship Alternatives (Jeremy)**

Proposal Review – Some research has been done in regards to tournament sponsorship. More to come.

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### **Tournament** (Alicia/Kevin)

May – We are on schedule. Sub-committee meetings have been occurring and progressing well.

Fall - Will hold a one location tournament for U8-U14 in the Fall, working with PCSL on a specific date either right after Labor Day or in October. It was proposed that Teresa begin looking at this tournament, so Alicia can focus on the May tournament.

### **Player ID and Acquisition** – (Chris/Myron)

Update - They will reach out to local organizations to see if they are interested in our programs, and they will present recommendation for Parent & Me program by April board meeting. They are also looking for other opportunities as well. Chris will put something in writing for a proposal moving forward.

### **Utilization of Chicago Fire** (Kris/Tim)

Next steps – We will meet with Caddy and Jamie in the next month to develop a plan.

### **Myron's Daily Duties** (Tim/Teresa)

Next steps – Will meet in the next 30 days to help streamline activities.

### **Try Outs** (Teresa/Scott)

Automation – They have begun to work with Myron/Chrissy/Amanda on automating pieces to reduce errors and redundancy. Caddy will also share some Chicago Fire materials as well.

### **Super Y** (Brenda/Teresa/Myron)

Update – Try outs have been completed and teams have been formed. Myron has locked down the spreadsheet for changes.

### **DoC Updates** (Myron)

Intern – We have an intern who will interview coaches and players to develop a video.

Emerging Talent Program – Waiting on final list for all those who are participating in the most recent tournaments. Boys are travelling to Las Vegas and girls are travelling to Phoenix. Approximately ten players from our club are participating this round.

Spring Season – Well underway. Some final tweaking to teams. We are ready to go.

Coaching Education – Major changes called Play, Practice, Play. There are 28 points to go thru for a practice. To get licensed, coaches will need to go thru two courses on line and two courses in person.

US Soccer – Presidential election will be live on Saturday morning.

### **Trivia Night** (Amanda)

Information – Saturday, February 24, at 5:30pm at the Moose Lodge to have some fun and fund scholarships for both IFJ and PCSL. Please let Amanda know if you have any contacts for donations.