

Strathmore Soccer Association - AGM

7:00 pm February 27, 2025

SMP Sports Centre Community Room

Attendance: Angie Boyd, Sheri Porter, Alex Cunningham, Jennifer Muckle, Amy Gamracy, Rhiannon Benoit, Bobbie Parkins, Steven Renfrow, Laura Taylor, Stevie Makila, Kyle Bow, Masami Ishikawa, Andrea Duerksen, Cayley Renfrow, Loretta VanBussel, Richard Twiddy, Matt Gamracy, Kate Banadyga, Gillian Strasky, Larissa Tough, Ryan Parkins, Lane Anderson

Regrets: Stefanie Brown

Agenda Items	Action & Outcomes	Action
Call to Order/ Addition to the Agenda	<p>1. Call to Order at 7:00pm by Alex Cunningham</p> <p>Roll Call of current Board of Directors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>President - Alex Cunningham</i> - <i>Treasurer - Stefanie Brown</i> - <i>Secretary - Sheri Porter</i> - <i>General Directors - Amy Gamracy and Jennifer Muckle</i> <p>FIRST CALL FOR NOMINATIONS</p> <p>Alex Cunningham nominates Amy Gamracy for Treasurer</p> <p>Andrea Duerksen seconds</p> <p>2. Any additions to the agenda? No</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Kate Banadyga motions to approve the agenda. Caley Renfrew seconds. Unanimous.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>3. Approval of Minutes</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Alex Cunningham motions to approve the minutes. Sheri Porter seconds. Unanimous.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	
Financial Report	<p>Annual Society Return - Net Income- Profit and Loss report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Treasurer, Stefanie Brown, is not in attendance to give the report, nor did she send any sort of report to be read at the meeting - Angie passed out copies of the Profit/Loss statement to attendees, and gave them time to look them over 	Angie

- Angie clarified that the \$82 306.76 showing as profit includes the \$60 000.00 we got from the casino
- Angie also pointed out that SSA paid \$32 000.00 for the turf rental fees at the Sports Centre, which was the reason we had shared practices; we were trying to keep the fees as reasonable as possible. The coaches who were in attendance at the AGM stated that they liked the shared practices
- Amy Gamracy pointed out that the fees for the turf rentals at the Sports Centre have gone up since January, so we will be paying even more next indoor season

The floor was open for questions from the attendees:

QUESTION:

1. Why was there an expense for CMSA cards when parents pay for those cards?
 - Angie explained that some parents sent etransfers to SSA for the cards, instead of to the person who was picking up the cards. So, SSA reimbursed the person who picked up the cards from those etransfers
2. Is there a budget? If so, can we see it?
 - It was explained that the Board has a budget that has been approved. Angie also stated that we are currently in a deficit due to a lower number of Grassroots registrants for the indoor season
3. Has SSA sent out a survey to see why the registration numbers were lower?
 - No, there was not a survey sent out. A Board Member stated that SSA plans to send out a survey at the end of this current indoor season.
4. How will the increase in turf rental fees at the Sports Centre impact registration fees next season?
 - Angie explained that we're not sure of the impact as of yet, as there are other factors to consider when coming up with registration fees
5. Does the Sports Centre give SSA or any other organization a discount for using the facilities?
 - Angie stated that she is not sure about other organizations, but the SSA does not get any discount despite being the Centre's highest user
6. Does SSA have a financial reserve?
 - Angie explained that after Covid, Canada Soccer has made it a requirement for all clubs to have a year's operating budget in reserve. This is because of all of the clubs needing a financial bailout during/after Covid. We do not have that financial reserve yet, but Angie pointed out that SSA did not have to take a financial bailout during the Covid years.

	<p>7. When is the next Casino?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the first quarter of 2028 <p>8. Is SSA now using an accounting program?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. That program was used to create the Profit/Loss sheet that was presented at the meeting <p>9. Are there restrictions on the Casino money?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes <p>-Angie stated that the financials have been reviewed and audited by an accountant.</p> <p>- There was a suggestion that to save costs that SSA doesn't pay an accountant to audit our financials. Angie explained that the accountant did the audit as a volunteer and did not charge a fee.</p> <p>Motion to Accept the Financial Report as presented Andrea Duerksen motions to accept the financials. Alex Cunningham seconds. Unanimous</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">SECOND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS</p> <p>No nominations, but an attendee stated that having a job description for each role, plus an idea of the time commitment required, being sent out ahead of time would have been helpful so people could decide if they were interested in any of the roles. Angie explained that the Board meets 4-5 times per year, that many discussions are had via email, and that Board Members get all of their volunteer points covered. She also explained that this is an Operating Board, rather than a working board.</p>	
<p>Reports</p>	<p>4. <i>Presidents Message</i></p> <p><i>SSA has been around since 1997. Since 2017/18 we have come a long way. We were one of the first 3 clubs in Alberta to meet SQS Standards, and we have maintained those standards since then. That is something to be proud of. We have a B Level Diploma Coach and C Licensed Coach within our club, which are requirements to have SQS standing. Our Club has grown a lot in the past few years, with more Club teams as well as all-girls teams. These are all things to be proud of. An area we need to improve on is recruiting referees. SSA needs to provide local referees for home games in the outdoor season. CMSA is full and will no longer be accepting additional clubs. There is a worry that CMSA will start cutting clubs, and they would likely start with out of district clubs like ours. It is important that we are meeting all requirements, to stay in good standing with CMSA.</i></p>	<p>Alex/</p>

Alex's message was met with some questions/comments:

- one coach in attendance wanted to know why SSA paid for Ryan Parkins to get his B Level Diploma when that “does not benefit the whole Club”. It was explained that a requirement of going to Provincials is having a B Level coach attend, so having a B level coach does in fact benefit all of SSA
- that same coach wanted to know how SSA decides which coaches will be reimbursed to get their C License. It was explained that SSA will decide on a case by case basis
- an attendee wanted to know whether all clubs now have the SQS standing. Angie explained that having the SQS standards are necessary for clubs to be sanctioned.
- there was a question about why we are having such a hard time finding referees. We're not sure. Caley Renfrew, the referee coordinator, told us that she has prepared a poster to distribute at schools to try to recruit more referees (anyone over 14 years of age can ref). That poster will also be sent out to the Junior Coaches and club teams whose players are the correct age. Caley said that at this time there are only 6 referees returning from last year. Referees are paid per game, based on the age group they are reffing (reffing older age groups are paid more money). SSA will reimburse any referee that takes the course, at the end of the season, as well as supply them with a referee jersey. First year referees have a mentor referee attend their first game.
- there was a question about whether referees can get school credit for reffing. Andrea Duerksen explained that the Phys Ed courses require volunteer hours (not paid hours). Alex Cunningham said that he would contact the High School to discuss this further
- there was question about how volunteer points are tracked. Angie explained that there are sign-up sheets for volunteer opportunities, so there is a record. She also said that TMs keep track of volunteers on their teams. She said that she has been in contact with a Canmore hockey team who implemented a new way to keep track of volunteer points this season, and is looking into that.

Alex

5. *Technical Director yearly Summary*

Ryan introduced himself to the group before giving his summary. He told us the following:

- *a game model was formally introduced to all coaches. The game model reinforces SSA's Club Philosophy, Guiding Principles and Values. He said that we are one of a few clubs to have a game model*
- *IDPs (Individualized Development Plans) were introduced for players to use. These are for players to use to work on themselves. A lot of clubs were using IDPs already, so we were playing catch up with this one.*
- *We have had a few successes with our club teams. The U12 Boys finished second in the Family Day Tournament, and the U13 girls team finished first in their league.*

- *There was a PPF-led development academy training offered for the first time, that was a success. The cost was only \$90/player (in comparison to other clubs charging hundreds of dollars for academy training). They wanted to keep the academy affordable and accessible.*
- *Goalkeeper training was also offered, at no cost to participants. A Keeper training session is required under SQS standards. It was run by Motive, and had professional players leading it.*
- *There have been some challenges, one of which was an increase in league-related concerns.*
- *Finding coaches has been an issue as well. Parental involvement/volunteerism has been on the decline.*
- *Outdoor Grassroots programming will be changing to be more parent-led, rather than relying solely on Junior Coaches. The hope is that getting parents involved earlier on will lead to more parents being willing to coach when their child is on a Club team.*
- *Ryan said that there were some parent complaints regarding Junior Coach engagement with the children, but when he asked the players, 100% of them loved their coaches and how they interacted with them.*

A few attendees expressed their appreciation for Ryan and all he does for our club. There were also kudos to Ben Parkins and the great job he is doing as Grassroots Coordinator.

Ryan's message resulted in comments/questions:

- one attendee suggested that the plea for volunteers be made more clear to parents. Both Angie and Ryan explained that call-outs for volunteers go out in emails, on social media, and through team snap. The need for coaches and other volunteers is outlined at registration, at the mandatory parent meeting at the start of the season, and in emails to those teams. Ryan said that if all of that does not result in volunteers, he starts calling parents to ask them to volunteer. SSA is doing all it can to recruit volunteers, including the implementation of the volunteer points system. Another attendee asked the person who brought up the concern about volunteer opportunities not being made more clear if she had any suggestions that SSA wasn't already doing; she had none.
- Ryan explained that years ago, parents coached with no training at all. We shifted away from that format with the new programming run by Junior Coaches. We've seen a significant increase in skill level in our players due to this program, but the downside is that we have seen a decline in parental involvement.
- it was also explained that we have invested in a digital coaches manual. Coaches are able to use the manual to find drills, plan practices, etc. The manual has been invaluable, especially for coaches with little soccer experience.
- it was also explained that SSA will reimburse coaches for courses they have completed when they commit to coaching a second season.

Executive Nominations

6. **Resignations** - Are there any resignations? NO

7. **Key Volunteer Positions - not BoD**

- **Social Media Content Distribution** - Role: Someone to pre schedule interesting, engaging, or informative posts. Drive up our Social presence.
- **League Liaison** - Role: Someone to chase up issues with leagues (CMSA and CUSA) once I have provided direction can call around for club movements, lobby for changes to support affiliate members, representative at player hearings (where deemed appropriate.) This person could also manage the adult soccer programs like Rec.
- **Conflict Resolution Person(s)** - Role: An individual, group or committee to manage interpersonal problems between club members. Including developing a proper conflict process framework (we have a start to it already - and the third party provided pathways so make a policy document that all processes follow - from verbal report to formal filling.)
 - Kyle Bow and Gillian Strasky
- **Volunteer Coordinator** - Role: A person or two that not only coordinated existing volunteers (Managing event assignments etc) but works on recruiting new coaches, volunteers etc. Particularly for programs where we receive complaints i.e. GR so it nags parents about volunteering or paid positions to develop the program.
- **Quartermaster (this is what is called in military/paramilitary organizations)** Role: An individual who is an organization lead in apparel. For all internal orders can confirm stock, approve design mockups that meet the brand guidelines (or escalate to the board for special cases) manages the SSA side of bulk orders and is the contact for anyone looking for information on existing or upcoming orders of non-uniform stock - this would be more to aid admin and keep Smore (or other provider) from receiving 10s of separate calls and requests for rushes, etc on bulk club purchased items (including Managing the late orders etc.)
- **Referee Coordinator**- someone to schedule referees for the outdoor season, manage referee recruitment, manage referee courses, etc
- **Maintenance**- someone to help paint lines on the outdoor fields, and help maintain the fields (mowing, etc)
- **Fundraising Coordinator** - coordinate fundraising endeavours, including the casino

We asked if anyone in attendance would be interested in any of these positions. No one stepped forward.

THIRD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

8. **Nominations Close**

9. **Presentation of the Slate**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nominations for vacant Seats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vice President ○ General Director - Laura Taylor ● Nominations for filled positions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ President - Alex Cunningham by acclamation ○ Secretary - Sheri Porter by acclamation ○ Treasurer - Amy Gamracy <p>Voting (if multiple nominations for the same position) Vote for Treasurer - All in favour of Amy Gamracy for Treasurer. None opposed. Unanimous.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>Welcome to Amy Gamracy, voted in as the new Treasurer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alex Cunningham and Angie Boyd will retain signing authority on SSA bank accounts ● Stefanie Brown will be removed from having signing authority on SSA bank accounts ● Amy Gamracy will be added as having signing authority on SSA bank accounts <p>SSA thanks Stefanie Brown for her years as Treasurer and helping to shape Strathmore Soccer.</p>	
Draws	<p>10. Incentive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Draw - Cavalry FC tickets – 1/10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 draws of 2 tickets - draws were made using a random generator on the computer with winners’ names being removed before the next draw. - Larissa Tough and Kate Banadyga were the winners ● Draw - \$50 registration discount 1/7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 draws of \$50 off registration - draws were made using a random generator on the computer with winners’ names being removed before the next draw. - Jennifer Muckle, Bobbie Parkins, Matt Gamracy, and Stevie Makila were the winners ● All attendees get 10 volunteer points for the indoor season. 	
Adjournment	Alex Cunningham adjourns the meeting at 8:35pm	