

MINUTES
UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
MARCH 5, 2004
NEW YORK, NY
8:00 A.M. EASTERN TIME

PRESENT: Dr. Robert Contiguglia, Sunil Gulati, William J. Goaziou, David Askinas, Marypat Bell, John Bouda, Chris Christoffersen, Amanda Cromwell, Tony DiCicco, Mike Edwards, Werner Fricker Jr., Don Garber, Richard Groff, Burton Haines, Linda Hamilton, John Harkes, Larry Harmon, Tim Holt, John Kerr Jr., Marge Madriago, Francisco Marcos, Brooks McCormick, Mike McDaniel, Robert McGee, David Messersmith, Bob Palmeiro, Kevin Payne, Nelson Rodriguez, Darl Rose, Alan Rothenberg, Bill Sage, Jim Sheldon, Bruno Trapikas, Peter Vermes, Dante Washington.

VIA PHONE:

APOLOGIES: John Doyle, Bob Gansler, Evelyn Gill, Jonathan Kraft, Cameron Rast.

IN ATTENDANCE: Daniel T. Flynn, Jay Berhalter, Rich Matthys, Alison Kocoras, Timothy Pinto, Katherine Hope, Julie Ilacqua, Forrest Eber, Mike Malamut, Parliamentarian, Debra Resling, Reporter, Dadie Perlov.

President Contiguglia called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m.

Katherine Hope took roll call and announced that a quorum was present.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of the November 22, 2003 Board meeting in Los Angeles. The minutes were **APPROVED** unanimously. The Board also reviewed the minutes of the portion of the August 14, 2003 Board meeting that took place in executive session. These minutes were **APPROVED** unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Contiguglia reported that he had attended the International Sports Summit in January. He noted that there is a lot of positive energy about the sport of soccer in the U.S., and a real sense that the sport is growing in importance.

Dr. Contiguglia noted that it was disappointing that the Men's U-23 team had not qualified for the Olympics. He stated that it demonstrated the need to improve player development. He reported that the Mexican Federation had offered an apology for the conduct of its fans at the match against Mexico. On the Women's side, he congratulated the team on qualifying.

He reported that WUSA would be presenting two soccer festivals, one in Blaine, Minnesota and one in Los Angeles. WUSA has stated that they are putting together a business plan in the hope of restarting the league in 2005.

Dr. Contiguglia reported that negotiations had been completed with the Women's players' association regarding a salary structure while they are in residency. He noted that the Women's players' association had filed a grievance claiming a right to Women's World Cup revenues, and the issue would be handled by legal staff.

Dr. Contiguglia reported that the Executive Committee had approved an offer to the Men's players' association for a financial structure for the new collective bargaining agreement. The offer includes increased compensation, and the Executive Committee believes it is the best offer USSF can provide within the framework of the current business plan.



Dr. Contiguglia also reported that the Executive Committee had approved an agreement appointing Soccer United Marketing as the marketing representative for USSF. The Executive Committee had also nominated Chuck Blazer to the FIFA Executive Committee. Finally, the Executive Committee had adopted a grievance panel recommendation regarding a complaint filed by a coach against AYSO.

Dr. Contiguglia reported that Consensus Management Group continues its work with the task force on governance and ethics to evaluate the current USSF governance structure. CMG will present its report to the task force in May or June, and then it will go to the Board of Directors and will be posted on the USSF website for comments from members.

[At this point the Board went into Executive Session. The minutes for this session are contained in a separate document.]

TREASURER’S REPORT

Bill Goaziou reported on the current state of USSF assets and liabilities.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

Dr. Contiguglia introduced Dadie Perlov. Ms. Perlov reported on the current status of her work for the governance task force. She noted that there would be a town hall meeting on Saturday night, and all were invited.

Sunil Gulati provided an update on the work of the Diversity committee. He introduced Scott Taylor, who had been hired to conduct a survey of the U.S. regarding participation and interest in soccer. Mr. Taylor presented the results of his survey to the board.

Bruno Trapikas reported that John Bouda had been re-elected as the referee representative to the Board.

Alison Kocoras provided an update on U.S. Indoor Soccer Association. She reported that the Rules Committee would be analyzing that group to determine whether they need to change membership categories based on their activities.

Brad Hays reported that Herb Giobbi would be leaving the U.S. Soccer Foundation for a job on Capitol Hill. Herb Giobbi thanked everyone for their work with him over the past few years. Mr. Hays also reported that John Koskinen would be taking over Mr. Giobbi’s duties temporarily, and a search would begin for a permanent replacement. Mr. Hays provided a brief update on the Foundation’s recent activities.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Askinas noted that the proposed amendment to Policy 601-5 proposed by USL was withdrawn.

MaryPat Bell presented a proposed policy amendment to Policy 102(4)-1, proposed by the Open Cup Committee. She **MOVED** that the proposed amendment to Section 204, relating to application fees, be adopted. The motion **FAILED** by majority vote. Ms. Bell then **MOVED** that the proposed amendment to Section 306, dealing with the disciplinary power of the Open Cup Committee, be adopted with one change recommended by the Rules Committee. The change recommended by the Rules Committee was accepted by unanimous consent. Mike Edwards **MOVED** to amend the language to remove the word “exceptional” from the last sentence. The motion to amend **PASSED** by majority vote. The motion, as amended, **PASSED** by majority vote.

Bob Palmeiro **MOVED** that the WUSA soccer festivals be permitted to proceed this summer, and that all related fees be waived. The motion **PASSED** by majority vote. During this conversation, it was noted that the entity WUSA no longer exists, and would no longer be considered a member.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATE

Dr. Contiguglia noted that a question had been asked about sending a team to the World University Games. He stated that this might be a good event for the U-18 team, and a recommendation about whether they



would participate should come soon. Should national teams decide not to go, he stated that the opportunity would be opened up to USSF members about possibly offering a team for the event.

Mr. Groff asked for assistance in outlining for members a description of how USSF funds are being used. Mr. Flynn agreed to offer such an outline.

Mr. Groff noted the need to monitor more carefully the finances of State Referee Committees. Mr. Bouda agreed, and stated that he would be working on improving the organization of these committees.

Mr. Flynn provided an update on the financial results of the Women's World Cup.

GOOD OF THE GAME

MaryPat Bell thanked Eastern New York for hosting the board meeting and the AGM. Nelson Rodriguez congratulated the Women's Team on qualifying for the Olympics. Tony DiCicco thanked Herb Giobbi for his service to the game of soccer. Francisco Marcos noted that the Portuguese Federation was initiating a project to identify potential player for its women's team who may be living in the U.S. John Bouda thanked California South for its hosting of two great referee camps. Don Garber noted that SUM is quite excited about its new partnership with USSF. Sunil Gulati reemphasized continued programs regarding diversity and a refocusing of efforts following the Men's Olympic team's elimination from the Olympic qualifying tournament. Kati Hope reported that the next board meeting would be on May 15, 2004 in Chicago. Dan Flynn thanked the board for the extension of his contract.

President Contiguglia adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

