



ARIZONA SOCCER FOUNDATION

Foundation Board Minutes

Inaugural Meeting, May 31, 3:30-5:30p AZ Sports & Entertainment Commission Offices

Attending: Nikki Balich, Robi Hullner, Jon Schmeider, Jennifer Swanton, Kyler Robinson, Harlan Teller, Leslie Johnson, Jonathan Berzins, Ray Artigue. **Absent:** Rich Tomey.

The board of directors convened at 3:40pm for nearly two hours, commencing business at their first-ever business meeting. Presiding was Jonathan Berzins and Ray Artigue from the Arizona Youth Soccer Association.

The meeting began with Directors' notebooks being distributed and in-depth introductions of everyone. It was requested that a board contact roster be created and distributed.

Jonathan provided an overview of the association, its history, mission and the number of families and stakeholders involved. He also explained the differences between the ASA leagues and teams and other organizations. ASA is easily the largest soccer organization in Arizona and still growing.

Ray reviewed the roles and responsibilities of directors, answering questions. He clarified that the \$5,000 give-or-get is a "soft" expectation and that even "leads" would count should they be passed along to Ray and consummated. The number of board meetings was discussed and it was agreed two would not be enough to meet the foundation goals.

A motion was made by Jennifer Swanton to hold quarterly meetings and it was seconded by Harlan Teller. It passed unanimously. Jonathan made a motion that Ray be appointed Executive Director; it was seconded by Nikki.

Next, the Bylaws were reviewed and discussed, and Jon Schmeider suggested that board terms should be staggered to prevent everyone rolling off the board at one time. Half (four) of the directors will begin their service with a two-year term and the other half (4) with a three-year term, concluding in 2025 and 2026, respectively. There was also the suggestion that the size of the board should be increased from 11 to 15, which would further lead to a staggering of board positions. This will be considered going forward.



Officer positions were discussed and it was decided that there would be four positions: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, all of which are specified in the Bylaws. Ray asked anyone interested in these leadership roles, to let him know.

Ray addressed goals and objectives for 2023 and beyond, and there was a meaningful discussion about how to position the foundation, separate and apart from the association. Harlan suggested that it seemed to be about what falls “between and/or outside of the lines.” Ray promised to expound upon that construct and develop additional positioning verbiage. Further discussion confirmed that our new foundation can do many good things either by innovating new program initiatives, or by “piggybacking” on existing programs that the foundation supports financially. Either way, higher education and broad youth development and support are to be the purposeful mission of the foundation.

Ray shared that the Association is considering conducting an in-depth economic impact study in order to “frame up” the importance and impact of its year-round activities throughout the state. This may lead to new funding sources from various municipalities, and the state.

The next board meeting will be held in late August/early September, and the meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Prepared and submitted: Ray Artigue, June 7, 2023