

MINUTES
TUCSON METRO SOCCER LEAGUE BOARD MEETING
January 8, 2025

Attendees: Basile (Bill) Andriopoulos, Marty Tagg, Eddie Betterton, Diego Morales, Belayneh (Bee) Tafesse, Homayoon (Homa) Karimi, Jonathan Pearlman, Pete Wendler

Absences: Adam Roth

Guest: Jose Verdugo

Meeting: The meeting took place in person at Corbett's in Tucson. Marty called it to order at 6:41 pm.

Routine Business (AGENDA):

Marty introduced Jose Verdugo, a current TMSL captain and player with interest in joining the board. He's attending the meeting to hear what's going on and decide if he's interested in joining. If he is, he will attend the February meeting and the Board will vote.

- I. Minutes – Homa motioned to approve the December minutes and Marty seconded; all agreed.
- II. Financial Report – In Wells Fargo \$84,097.19, in PayPal \$10,121.75 for a total of 94,189.40. Homa will transfer \$8,000 from PayPal to Wells Fargo. Marty and Eddie reviewed funds from 2020-2024 and Homa checked the Wells Fargo account for that period and the account stays about the same, approximately \$90,000 - \$100,000 on average. Marty motioned to approve, Homa seconded, all agreed.
- III. D&R – reviewed 4 red cards.

IV. Old Business

1. Special Elections: VP, Registrar and Secretary
 - VP – Pete accepted nomination. Jon respectively declined but would like to stay involved in committees. Voting – all in favor of Pete for VP, none opposed.
 - Registrar – Eddie accepted to return to Registrar.
 - Secretary – Marty announced this position should be a board member, no nominations and no volunteers. Amy will continue as secretary, could change in the future should someone be nominated or volunteer.
 - Marty will send job duties to Pete so they can determine division of labor.
2. Refunds: triggered by receipt of an email from the requestor except in special circumstances (such as injuries we can track)
 - A committee should be organized to review and respond to these types of requests.
Topics that need reviewed:
 - Refund vs credit
 - Injuries, Military, 1st responders
 - All board members agreed that a "Financial Committee" should be formed.
3. Premier Division: potential new team did not commit so still only 4 teams
 - Board discussed and all agreed to leave as is for this season.
 - Plan for "Open Division" in the future so better potential for Over 30 to start. Division breakdowns would be Open, Over 30, Over 40, Over 50 and Over 60.

V. New Business

1. Refund for Suspended Player

- On 09/08/2024 a player was suspended for 6 games with \$200.00 fine and sat remainder of the 1st half. Player claimed TMLS did not properly inform him of sanctions or appeal process so he requests a refund. Board took a vote on following options.
 1. Full refund (0 votes)
 2. Refund towards sanction fees, still owes the difference if ever wants to return. (5 votes)
 3. No refund. (2 votes)

2. Dual Players Suspensions (tabled to next meeting)

- Currently a dual player suspended for Level 1-2 infractions only sits out in the Division he receives red card
- Currently a dual player suspended for Levels 3-5 infractions sits out ALL games
- Do we stay with this or change it? Some talk of players sitting out ALL games for any red card.

3. Vision Statement/5-year plan

- Marty proposed Vision Statement that Eddie prepared: At Tucson Metro Soccer League, our mission is to provide a welcoming, competitive, and inclusive environment for adults to enjoy the game of soccer, improve their skills, and foster camaraderie within our community. We strive to promote physical fitness, sportsmanship, and a passion for soccer, while ensuring a fun and safe space for players of all skill levels. Our league is dedicated to building lasting friendships, encouraging teamwork, and creating opportunities for personal growth through the beautiful game of soccer.
 - Board members to email suggestions and ideas.

4. 1/3/5 Year Plan

- Sponsorship package (\$1k, \$5k, \$10k, \$20k) – tabled for next meeting
- Expanding and Diversifying league (teams and players) – tabled for next meeting
- Fields (kino, or partner with youth programs) – tabled for next meeting
- ASSA pros/cons or alternatives – tabled for next meeting
- New registration website (go live August 2025)
- Board Division of Labor
 - Marty asked board members to review all job duties each person is currently doing and where some people can improve on participation. Think about strengths and weaknesses, what roles can each member step up and help with?
 - Potential to remove board members by vote for every Officer position filled by paid person and for each new board member voted in.
- Financial clarity (investment strategies)
 - Marty discussed options with a personal financial advisor, who provided some options but will place on hold until Financial Committee established.

5. Eddie asked board members to share their ideas of where they would like to see improvement or expansion of the league in 2025.

- O40 and O50 teams grow/recruit.
- Media – Facebook, Instagram, etc. We have talked about this but nothing has happened. Recruiting, individually not just whole teams.

- Growth. Getting younger players involved on the board to help with this.
- Establish a financial plan based on past expenditures. Potentially do a financial review so we can see what we're spending money on and how we can better manage our money.
- Get captains in every division more involved with league decisions.
- Own our own fields or get involved with organization building new fields. Determine cost effectiveness of Kino vs City/County fields.
- Website system that hosts scores. Refs can put in reports directly. Pictures can be taken of leaders of top goal scorer, clean sheets etc.. Increase website traffic will support mores sponsors. Better system for free agents.
- More robust process to get sponsors.
- Split year into 3 shorter seasons like TWSL to make registration more affordable and perhaps bring in more teams; consider one tournament with top teams from each short season, like Champions League.
- Registration portal with more functionality.
- Multi language assistance. Modernize.

VI. Adjournment.

- a. Marty motioned to end the meeting and unanimously seconded and approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 15th day of January 2025.

By Amy McFarland

Marty Tagg, President

The next meeting of the Tucson Metro Soccer League Board of Directors will be virtual on Wednesday, February 11th at 6:30 pm.