

Approved

Minutes of the Special Called MYSA Council Teleconference Meeting November 10, 2003

Meeting called to order: 9:10 PM

Council Members Present: Brent Clements, President, Gene Phillips, Treasurer, Tony Bombich, Recreational VP, Jim Harrison, Western District Director, David Dodd, Central District Director, Alex Farned, Northern District Director, George Hoff Executive Director

Joining Late: Dawn Wright, Registrar, Karen Carroll, 3rd VP-Amateurs

Missing Council Members: Kay Breland, Division I VP, Jeanne Soboul, Secretary, Tommy Gore, Southern District Director

Purpose: The purpose of this teleconference is to review build report and prospectus for the purpose of determining the question of rent versus build, and if we decide to build, what lending institution to use.

Discussion: Brent reviewed the general points of the report, describing the main topics or thoughts of each section. At each section he brought out the upside and downsides of each issue. Section 1 was an overview of how the project came to be. Section 2 reviewed the staff and the current office space. Section 3 was a review of rental properties available, area demographics, the land at the reservoir, and a detailed explanation of the building. Section 4 outlined the RSMG proposals. Section 5 outlined the bank proposals. Exhibits of all these documents and plans were included.

Discussion ensued and it became apparent that the Council members were largely more interested in building rather than continuing to rent space. Gene expressed his concern that MYSA will run a deficit against the Executive Director and Coaching Budgets this year. He feels that we need to add more players quickly and be aware that our surplus will be impacted.

Dawn expressed concern about the increase in the lease payment from \$1500 per year to \$3000 per year and the fact that RSMG would be getting a space for free as well as perceptions that the building was the NWRAA office. Tony expressed similar feelings as did Jim Harrison. It was pointed out that there would be an impression problem if the building was placed in Vicksburg or at Clinton just as well. It was also noted that Brent was willing to donate as much as two acres in Love, Mississippi, but it was too far from the central part of the state.

Discussion about the fact that the land doubled from approximately 2-3 cents per square foot to 4 – 6 cents per square foot in an area where commercial land was going for \$8.00 per square foot. Brent explained that in an effort to get RSMG away from the thought of renting the MYSA meeting space, he counter-offered a larger annual lease price and spread the initial costs over the course of the loan.

Additional finance discussion ensued and Brent suggested a \$500 subsidy on each of the 24 Sanctioned tournaments as well an increase of \$1000 of the expectations of income from the District and State Tournaments. It was determined that Meeting room space for the Council Meetings would save approximately \$2000. Grants and donations were also discussed. Gene asked about furnishing and it was noted that the building price did not include furnishings. Brent explained that he was still researching that.

Brent returned to the rentals properties for a brief discussion, however the Council indicated that they wanted to vote on the Building Project.

Approved without amendments at 10:15 A.M. on September 13, 2003

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Motion:

Brent: A couple of weeks ago, Suzanne gave a habitual tournament date, September 25-28, to PYSL without checking the date, according to the policy. Brent then advised PYSL, by letter, stating the error of the MYSA office and informing them that Clinton has filed a complaint to have the MYSA policy 8.2 is upheld. The council voted to uphold the 8.2 policies and remove the sanction for the event that weekend as well as return their tournament application and funds.

David Roberts, PYSL, appealed this decision.

David Roberts, President PYSL: This date was reserved July 2, 2002. Dawn advised him 2 months ago of the conflict. Suzanne and Robert tried very hard to change the date to 2 weeks earlier but it conflicts with a Cancer Benefit soccer tournament that they are already holding. They could not hold tournaments two weekends, back to back.

Robert called Dawn explaining the conflicts and then last week, received the letter from Brent. Policy 8.2 is understood by Robert but believes that the last two years Clinton has not used this date of the last weekend in September. They used the last weekend in October. This does not mean that their date was the same date. 90 days prior to a tournament, a request must be submitted. Clinton only submitted their request July 29th, which is 2 months before the tournament.

He believes that PYSL is being punished and they did not do anything wrong.

Questions from the Council:

Tony Bombich: When was your tournament application turned in?

David Roberts: July 2, 2002. The outgoing president turned in the application.

Brent: There is no policy regarding about how far in advance that you can request a tournament.

Gene Phillips: October of last year was the last tournament. What dates are open this time this year: September 6 & 7, September 13 & 14, October 25 & 26, November 15 & 16

Dawn Wright: In 2002, the fall tournament was held Sept 13 & 14. The Cancer Benefit was held at another date last year. The fundraiser is not MYSA sanctioned.

David Dodd: On the paperwork we received, it states information about 1997 – 2002 tournament dates. Is this all stand as correct? The 2001 tournament was held on what date?

September 22 (Saturday) but they started games on Thursday, Sept 20 and concluded on Sunday, September 23.

No dates are available for Pear for 1998 and 1999.

Tommy Gore: Clinton hasn't used these dates for the last 2 years? Brent says that this is not correct.

Jim Harrison: No questions

Jeanne Soboul: No questions

Randy Bledsoe, Clinton Soccer Association: Dawn Wright is speaking on his behalf for CSA.

David Robinson: I wanted to add one more thing. Their weekend is not the last weekend in September. This is why he made the appeal. This is his whole basis of argument. Besides 2000, this is the only time that they used the last weekend of September.

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Dawn Wright: Clinton is in the midst of a changeover. Randy is now the president. Clinton did not file until last July. They thought that their date was protected. The ruling is 90 days to be filed or there is a penalty. Clinton tries to do it around September 30 but 1 year they adjusted to another tournament date and just went around that time. MYSA office did not contact them about this information. They assumed they would at least be contacted. They did not think that the sitting board should file when they would not be the board in office for this tournament. Clinton believes that they should have been notified of the MYSA decision to approve Pearl's request.

Randy Bledsoe: Since Pearl filed this in July 2002, if they would have been made aware, they could have rectified this situation. Clinton Fall Invitational is the oldest tournament. It is at least 10 years in the running. Clinton always wants to accommodate but so many tournaments are being held that it is very hard to do so.

Questions from the Council:

Tony Bombich: No questions

Jeanne Soboul: No questions

Gene Phillips: No questions

David Dodd: Do we have a copy of Pearl's appeal? Appealing MYSA's letter? Has Clinton submitted their application on file as well as their fee.

Brent: No, it was simply a written request that MYSA apply its existing rules.

Jim Harrison: No questions

Tommy Gore: No questions

Karen Carroll: When did Clinton file their application for the tournament: July 29, 2003

Brent: Any other questions? No

Dawn Wright: Final comment: Clinton waited until the last minute. They found out about this in the "In Touch" magazine. Dawn called Brent to find out why.

David Roberts: Thank you very much to the council. We feel as an organization that we did what we were required to do. This was an MYSA mistake and why should Pearl be penalized. We tried very hard to work it out and change dates. 30 applications have been sent out as well as coaches' pamphlets, registration forms and paid for our t-shirt artwork to be done. This has all already been done.

Brent: Who attends the Cancer tournament? Teams from Florence enter. Several Div I teams enter as a warm-up for the upcoming season. Since this is not an MYSA sanctioned tournament, each team entered signs a waiver form.

Brent: There is a provision for benefit tournaments. Take advantage of this for your next benefit in the future.

David Roberts: All proceeds go to a local cancer patient.

Questions:

Gene Phillips: What is the financial impact if they both hold the tournament on the same weekend?

Randy Bledsoe: For the Fall Invitational, about 80 % of our revenue for the year comes from this. Pearl usually attends our tournament and we usually attend theirs. This will have a significant impact on our club.

David Roberts: This is our sole fundraiser for the year. It would be a great impact. We have a lot of western district teams. It is only 12 miles from Pearl to Clinton. Both clubs will suffer greatly.

Randy Bledsoe: Referees are a premium during this time. JFC will use some of our fields for this tournament.

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Dawn Wright: Ray will not let them use their fields this year.

David Roberts: JFC will use 6 of their fields for the Crossroads Tournament.

The meeting moves to Executive Council at 9:50

David Dodd: I would like to have an open discussion. I have issues with the August 11th letter. Is that a formal complaint done the same way as Pearl?

Brent Clements: We have by laws and we have policies. There needs to a distinction between the two. Should Clinton have appealed this way? MYSA office staff made an error.

David: Suzanne should not have contacted Pearl. No formal complaint was filed. I feel MYSA office did not make a mistake. Why is this brought before the council? I would like to see a formal complaint. Neither association is the habitual host then according to 8.2. \$200 for Pearl to file this appeal and CSA did not?

Brent: I should have looked into this deeper before I sent out the letter; I took the information provided to me at face value.

Tony: Habitual has to be more than a year or 2. It needs to be 4, 5 or 6 years at least.

David: Read the definition of habitual. (David reads it out loud from Webster's)

Tony: Submitting the application a year in advance in July 2002 and it was approved. Early submission made it hard for the office staff to realize the date so far in advance.

Brent: We have a system that does not continue to work as we grow.

David: Does the host tournament have a request for the same date next year?

Dawn: 8.2 says very specifically "periods of time". Cindy Johnson did not file the paperwork, as she should have in July 2002. When Dawn spoke to Suzanne, she was told that the date was filled already. September 30 has been a target date for years.

David: Tony and Dawn are in a situation that he does not envy.

David: The Mud Bowl in Florence is habitual. If they move District, they move the Mud Bowl.

Gene: Are we looking for a conclusion to say Pearl gets the tournament or that Clinton does? Yes, that is the basis of the appeal.

Brent: Dawn, concerning the 13 & 14th date, if given the benefit of council help, could you hold this tournament?

Dawn: Trying to wear an MYSA hat. David Roberts said that he did not want to do back to back tournaments but they did last year. Habitual says "specific periods".

David: 3 different weekends were used.

Dawn: Says there are 2 weekends in this "specific period". Clinton has held that tournament for 25 years according to Tony. Dawn says 20 years but not always under MYSA. The first email was August 6th from Dawn to Brent. When did he mail out his application for the tournament?

Brent: If it's September 13 & 14th, will it help if you had the use of the front page of the website as well as online registration. Would Clinton use this?

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David: Can you bargain this date?

Dawn: No, my only role is the immediate past president. I have an issue cause 8.2 does not apply? This is an accommodation attempt. 8.2.7 – Says that MYSA will not allow 2 tournaments on the same weekend unless the organization granted the tournament agrees. So Pearl would have to make the decision on the offer?

David: So Pearl is the 1st submitted? Yes, Pearl should be the first submission.

Brent: We have 49 organizations and are adding 5 more right now. We have larger organizations running 3-4 tournaments a year. How will other smaller organizations be able to hold tournaments for raise funds?

Jimmy: I take exception to the dates. Clinton has used the last weekend in September. Pearl was in November twice and the 2 years in September. Is there another date where we can have a tournament close to that date, maybe on the coast? 12 miles from tournament to tournament is just too close. We need to hold tournaments further away from each other.

Brent: We could do away with the Coach's Cup on November 8 & 9th in Tupelo. This is an MYSA sponsored tournament fundraiser for the coaching department.
Are we going to allow Pearl or Clinton to have the tournament this weekend? Could they have their tournament the same weekend this year?

Dawn: Referees are hard to come by and if you have this to occur it will cause a problem. There are 80 – 186 teams that have been hosted by Clinton for this tournament. Getting enough referees will be an issue.

Some U16 & U19's play earlier in order to free up the younger referees so that they can help. They can then referee the weekend since their games are already played.

We need to vote on the appeal to overturn the letter.

David: We need to strike in the letter sent out that MYSA office members made a mistake because of the wording of the 8.2 ruling "habitual" is not the case here. Neither 3-week span makes it habitual. There is no new tournament host. I can only base this on the information before us and not what is being said here, i.e. this tournament has been held for 20 years. September 30 is the habitual date.

Gene: The purpose of the meeting is to decide whom to give the tournament to.

Karen: I agree with David. It does not seem to be habitual.

Motion: To strike that a MYSA office member made a mistake as stated in the letter dated August 11th to David Roberts from Brent Clements.

Maker: David Dodd

Second: Karen Carroll

Discussion: If no error was made by MYSA, there is no reason for the appeal in the first place. No letter should have been sent to Pearl, and then the MYSA 8.2 rule would be invalid. Also, is this a vote where Tony and Dawn have to recuse themselves since this issue is different from the appeal vote? So can they vote in this question? It is a different issue.

Tommy: This vote, they should recuse themselves

Jimmy: this is MYSA policy

Gene: I don't think they should recuse themselves.

David: This is only to state that the office staff made a mistake.

Gene: Call the question

Voice Vote

A yes vote means that an office member did not make a mistake.

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Gene Phillips – No
Karen Carroll – Yes
Jim Harrison – No
Tony Bombich - No
David Dodd – Yes
Tommy Gore - yes
Dawn Wright – No
Jeanne Soboul – Abstain
4 No 3 Yes

Motion Failed

Motion: To allow both organizations to hold their tournament on the same weekend. There will be no resolution who will get the tournament next year.

Maker: Gene Phillips

Second: David Dodd

Discussion: Brent: Would it be appropriate to allow the office to allow assistance? What is considered appropriate?

Gene: What would the office do to assist if they held the tournament themselves?

Tony: More publicity would be needed if both organizations hold their tournaments on the same weekend. Need more teams to come in to help. The web page would help. District directors could help as well.

We could send out email blasts and mailings.

Dawn: The office has current addresses so maybe they could offer mailing labels to each host.

What if an organization is not happy with this? Can they appeal this again and we would have to start over?

Brent: Any further appeals would have to be national.

We could waive the tournament fees for both organizations. Does everyone agree to this? This also needs to be rewritten with MYSA growth.

Jimmy: Call the question

Dawn and Tony recuse themselves.

MYSA will assist both organizations by refunding their tournament fees and help with mailings.

Gene and Jimmy agree to this.

Who has the host weekend for next year from this tournament? The organization that files their report first gets the choice of the weekend. Disclose this information when the council gives the ruling of the appeal.

David: We can't change the rules. They must be brought up at the AGM

Brent: We can suspend the rules until the AGM and then rule on it.

Gene Phillips – Yes

Karen Carroll – Yes

Jim Harrison – Yes

Tony Bombich – Abstain

David Dodd – yes

Dawn Wright – Abstain

Tommy Gore – Yes

Jeanne Soboul – Yes

Motion Carried

Motion: To table any new tournament approval for the 2004-2005 season until after the AGM.

Maker: David Dodd

Second: Gene Phillips

Gene Phillips – Yes

Karen Carroll – Yes

Jim Harrison – Yes

Tony Bombich – Yes

David Dodd – Yes

Tommy Gore – Yes

Dawn Wright – briefly left the meeting

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Jeanne Soboul – Yes
Motion Carried

Brent will contact David Roberts tomorrow with the results and will put it in writing for both parties tomorrow.

Appeal Concluded at 11:15 P.M.