



NM Rapids Durango-----Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - FINAL

**Wednesday, December, 4, 2024 @ 6:00 pm — Wells Group Durango**

**In attendance:** Kate Kelly, Marietta Linney, Allison Wall, Joanna Tucker, Melissa Casillas, Jimmy Hall, Kathy Anderson Wilson, Julie Smith, Steven Bayer, Jessie Sigillito, Tom Geyer, Sean Ackerman

**Proxies: None**

**Absent:** Becky Eisenbraun, Hayley Hollenga,

**Guests: Becca Robinson Players in the Club ages - U16 G and U14B, U9B**

**Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm by Allison Wall, President**

- I. **Approval of November 2024 Minutes-** Steven made a motion to approve, Melissa seconded. Approved.
- II. **Approval of November 19, 2024 Special Board Meeting Minutes-** Steven made a motion to approve, Sean seconded. Approved.
- III. **Club Business**
  1. **Communication from the Audience-** Becca Robinson introduced herself. See Guests above.
  2. **Facilities / Fields update-** Kate and Joanna are working on reserving fields for the older age boys groups since their Club season is just starting and there is not any snow on the fields. The Durango High School field is available T,W,TH from 5-7pm for \$27/hr including lights. H.S. field is not available during Winter Break. Requests have also been submitted to the school district for indoor space this winter. The High School Boys teams will most likely attend a tournament in February and securing field space or indoor space is a priority. There will be quite a bit of shuffling to different locations.
  3. **Club Direction—Recreational/Competitive-** Tom initiated the discussion about the direction of the Club. He indicated that the feedback he is receiving from other parents in the Club is that the players are missing out on more competitive opportunities because it seems that the Club is a Rec+ club. Many teams have a wide range of player abilities on a team. There is a suggestion that the Club move in the direction of being solely a “competitive” club. In the current structure, the more competitive players have to travel to Albuquerque to obtain more competitive training and play. There has also been a request from some parents that more competitive training and play be made available locally. Several opinions and ideas were discussed and many questions were raised. Would it be possible to establish tryouts and form competitive teams starting at a particular age level? Would it then be possible for those players who participate in tryouts and don’t make the team to play in the recreational league? If there were players who couldn’t make the cut at tryouts, could it be possible to retain those players in the Club and place them on a development team? Is there a possibility for more collaboration with Parks and Rec for developmental players? Having combined teams of

competitive and developmental players makes it challenging for the coaches at the U12 and above age groups and some parents feel that teams with a wide range of abilities negatively impacts the more “competitive” players. It was suggested that the Club needs to address whether we want to be a quantity club or quality club? Historically, the focus of the Club has been to build the base so that when players become high school aged and enter high school, there are enough well-prepared players for a team. If players are cut at an early age, it is difficult to build the base for the high school. Over the years, there have been several iterations of how to address the needs and gap between the developmental and more competitive players. More discussion is needed to determine how to best approach the mission and direction of the Club – competitive vs developmental plus. It was suggested that consistent, established processes are in place so that parents and players know what to expect. When parents express that they want more competition for their players, what is it that they are wanting - more practice and developmental opportunities locally or a tryout-based structure in which only the most talented players make the team?

**Tom made a motion to have Club Directors look at some alternatives to create more competitive options within the Club while allowing for flexibility for age groups, numbers and situations. Julie seconded.**  
**Approved.**

#### **4. Continuing Education / Coach Licensures Financial Support- none**

**IV. Executive Director Report—Kate** One of the candidates for the Director of Coaching younger age group position, Matt Baldridge, is going to work with Kate on creating more local competitive training opportunities for those players who desire more training. Hayley Hollenga was hired to take Joanna's Director of Coaching position for the younger age group. Joanna will be wrapping up her duties by the end of December. Ray Nause from NM Rapids spoke with Kate about the ID trainings. Several Durango players showed well and the communication from NM Rapids was solid. US Soccer released information that in the Fall of 2026, individual member organizations will have the choice of how to structure teams – by grade level or birth year. See attached report.

#### **V. Director Reports**

- a. U9-U12--Joanna Tucker** – Nothing to report – handing over the baton to Hayley.
- b. U13-19--Jimmy Hall**- Season has concluded. There has been communication with teams to start and look ahead to Spring Season for planning purposes. Jimmy and Sean are working together about the schedules and tournaments so to give players the most opportunities.
- c. Director of GK Report--Hayley Hollenga** -None May try to run a goalkeeper camp during Futsal
- d. Mini-Kickers Director Report--Hayley Hollenga** - none

#### **VI. Committee Reports**

- Executive Committee (Marietta, Kathy, Becky, Allison, Tom)** none
- Fields Committee (Jimmy, Kate, Tom, Julie)** - none
- Survey Committee (Kate, Jimmy, Marietta)** – Survey has been sent 2X. Kate will forward information to Marietta regarding parents who would like to be called.
- Parent & Player Liaison / Disciplinary Committee (Kathy, Marietta, Becky, Melissa C)**-none
- Scholarship/Refunds Committee (Melissa C, Joanna, Julie, Steven)**-none
- Expansion/Club Goals Committee (Kate, Allison, Tom)**- none
- Risk Management Committee (Joanna, Kathy, Tom)**-none
- Budget Committee (Kathy, Kate, Joanna, Allison, Jessica)**-none
- Durango Shootout / Durango Soccer Awards / Publicity PR Committee (Kathy, Kate, Melissa C, Jessica, Steven)** none
- High School Sub Committee (Jimmy, Melissa C, Allison, Sean, Steven)** -Highschool players U15-U18 will be having an optional 3<sup>rd</sup> night of practice if fields can be secured. College advisory issues, Bayfield tryouts were discussed. Steven will be the head of the committee.

**VII. Financial Reports-** Joanna pointed out a few noticeable expense differences. Our financial position is solid. The Duke City League Fee of still needs to be paid- technical issues with the online payment system.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:45pm Tom motioned to adjourn, Marietta 2<sup>nd</sup>. Adjourned**

**Executive Session-** Kate Kelly, Joanna Tucker, and Jimmy Hall left the meeting. The remaining Board Members were brought into Executive Session by Tom to review and approve 2024 bonus amounts for the Directors. The discussion at the Executive Session stayed within the guidelines of reviewing and approving bonuses. Bonus amounts were approved and Tom Geyer pulled the Board out of Executive Session.

**NEXT MEETING:** **Wednesday, February 5, 2025 @ 6 pm— Location: Wells Group Durango**

**Board Members:** Allison Wall (President), Becky Eisenbraun (Vice President), Marietta Linney (Sec), Kathy Anderson Wilson (Treas.), Melissa Casillas, Tom Geyer, Julie Smith, Sean Ackerman, Jessica Sigillito, Steven Bayer

**Club Coach Staff:** Kate Kelly (EXEC. DIRECTOR), Joanna Tucker (DOC/ADMIN), James Hall (DOC), Hayley Hollenga (GK DOC/Mini-Kickers)

**2024/2025 Voting Members = 10      2024/2025 Quorum = 6**

At meetings of the Board of Directors, a majority of the number of Directors shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business other than the filling of vacancies on the Board. If a quorum is present, the act of the majority of the Directors in attendance, or by proxy, shall be the act of the Board unless the act of a greater number is required by law, the articles of incorporation, or by these bylaws.