

Section 8 Chicago BOARD MEETING



7:00 PM February 12, 2019 | Schubas Tavern (3159 N. Southport Ave, Chicago, IL 60657)

Board Members:

Nicole Hack (Chair); Marty Tomszak (Vice Chair); Karl Schuster (Communications); Moria Dailey Nestmann (Marketing) Sean Callaghan (Events); Nate Thompson (Fundraising); Oliver Kolb (Operations); Carri Alldredge (Finance)

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda Approval | 1 Minute | Presenter: Nicole

Purpose: Decision.

Resolution: Approved, unanimously.

Introduction of the 2019 Board | 15 Minutes | Presenter: Everyone

Purpose: Explain goals and trajectory for the season.

Nicole's Goals: Electronic voting for the AGM, Position to head up the Section 8 Chicago Soccer Club, self-sufficiency, review by laws, extend collaborative nature of this board.

Marty's Goals: Continuing Fire for Food drive, continuing partnership with Goose Island, chose this year to run for the board above any other year because of the current situation with the FO and maintain as high a level of supporter autonomy and rights as possible.

Karl's Goals: make communications more relevant, community contributions to content, facilitate more involvement.

Moria's Goals: cohesiveness among the community, work with others to expand attendance at events, highlighting SG initiatives, website content, interact with Chicago based businesses and corporate sponsors of the Fire.

Carri's Goals: protect the culture, history and values of our community, ensure financial stability, increase the independence of S8 through merch sales, donations, and more creative avenues, increase charitable giving, increase community outreach.

Sean's Goals: revitalize road trips and watch parties as well as community visibility, looking forward to a new and positive direction.

Oliver's Goals: Reinvigorate operations, increased capo involvement, bring in new material, increase the voice of supporters.

Nathan's Goals: Revitalizing branding and merch, increasing the brand visibility, financial independence, grow the community in a positive way through merch.

Financial Update | 15 Minutes | Presenter: Carri

Purpose: Budget.

- Financial meeting was held this week. We are in good standing as the season approaches.
- The budget goals are in process, the creation of a working budget is under way.
- Growth of charitable receiving. As a 501 c 3 we are able to be put down as a tax deduction.
- Pushing for donations towards the end of the fiscal year is important.
- A calendar is in progress to help avoid pitfalls of previous fiscal years.
- Sponsorship letters will be utilized.

Legal Update | 5 Minutes | Presenter: Nicole

Purpose: Update on the current state of the ISA's standing.

- Housekeeping is in order. Payments for insurance are in. We are in good standing with the IRS.
- GSuite account is on its way.

Independent Supporters Council | 10 Minutes | Presenter: Nicole

Purpose: Inform.

- Nicole was proud to represent S8 at the event.
- A main goal is to keep a line of communication open between supporters in Chicago and elsewhere in the league. Best practices are a positive outcome of this session and can be a strong point going forward.
- Nicole highlights the agenda of the ISC, available on their website.
- Nicole sees the ISC as under utilized at the moment. They are a great resource.
- Plans to stand in solidarity with Sky Blue FC are underway (league wide and board wide).

Opening Day Tifo | 10 Minutes | Presenter: Oliver

Purpose: Update and discuss.

- Design is in the works. It will speak to solidarity between the entire community.
- Size is under discussion right now.
- Plans to begin painting are underway.
- March 24th is the next two pole build.
- These will be a regular occurrence again this season at Pendulum.
- Stay tuned for opening day tifo announcements.

Fire for Food Drive | 10 Minutes | Presenter: Marty

Purpose: Update and discuss.

- FFF doing really well — we've hit 13% of our \$10k goal so there's a lot of good work. If you haven't donated, you can because you can win a Blanco jersey this month.
- Plans: Marty hosting donation site at the tailgate. Commitments from BuckleDown, Goose Island, and Two Brother for beer for donors.
- As a way to reopen lines of communication and collaboration, the FO has signed on to partner with us on food drive initiatives such as a potential opportunity to work with fire staff and players at the food depository site. They have also committed to having donation sites at some games at ticketing gates throughout the season. Additionally we are looking into the possibility of adding a button to the ticket app and ticket booth to round up to the nearest dollar to round up, as well as in the team store. It's going well.
- We're looking into partnering with CCK (info about CCK— provide opportunities for people who are housing or food insecure).
- The board is going to sponsor one of their scholarships for their students.
- We're also providing them with two season tickets in THE after they complete culinary school. We're also in talks with some of our partner bars to offer graduates a place of employment for some of their graduates.

Merchandise | 10 Minutes | Presenter: Nathan

Purpose: Outline a plan for the creation of merch.

- We have a fresh slate to start.
- We'll be trying to sell off overstock in the next couple of weeks at a discount.
- Enamel pins are back in vogue.
- Financial stability is key.
- Mood board/vision board is something that we can make use of in the design process.
- Gauging interest is key.
- Grab bag opening day. We will be providing cheap, non-refundable, merch to celebrate the start of the season and clear stock.

Section 8 On Tour | 10 Minutes | Presenter: Sean

Purpose: Discuss plans for away travel this year, specifically, the potential for large organized trips.

- Group purchase for LA will be made on February 19th for those considering a trip out there. Rule of thumb going forward will be two weeks prior to away matches.
- Sean has been speaking with bus company partners and has quotes in place for TFC, Columbus, and Cincinnati.
- Stipends will be offered for away match tickets whenever possible.
- Kansas City may be a difficult trip to make happen via bus, train is an option.

- Away Trips need a resurgence and Sean is excited to work on this.

Watch Parties | 5 Minutes | Presenter: Sean

Purpose: To discuss venues, themes, and other ideas related to viewing away matches.

- ESPN+ has handicapped our ability to grow this avenue of communal building.
- The ISA will be here to echo preexistent watch parties from SGs.
- Branching out into newer venues is an initiative for Sean.
- Liars club will be hosting one opening day watch party as will Pub 97.
- Emporium Wicker park is a possibility for a future event but is booked for the season opener.
- Watch parties might revolve around Office Hours with the board, a new mechanism for talking with the board (not only at watch parties).

Supporters' Group Features and S8C Content | 15 Minutes | Presenter: Moria

Purpose: Inform, discuss, call for content.

- Moria recalls the possibility of In Kind donations.
- Call for community members to bring forward content ideas.
- Event previews.
- Game day previews.
- Supporters' Group features.
- Engagement is key!
- Karl wants to echo this content creation! Reach out to Comms if you have story ideas for editorial content. You wanna see stuff? Do it!

Black History Month Event (February 23rd at Reggies) | 15 Minutes | Presenter: Jake

Purpose: An introduction to Black Fires as well as an outline for the festivities.

- Proceeds will benefit a mixture of Black Pearl and My Block My Hood My City.
- Donation items, Crystal Dunn scarf and Sean Johnson gloves among other things.
- Reggies will have drink specials, provide the roof space for the party, and stream the match on projectors.
- Black Heritage Scarves will be on sale at the event.
- Hoodies will also be available.
- Show up please!

Update from the Team | 5 Minutes | Presenter: Fire Staff

Purpose: Update.

- There was not CFSC representative present at the meeting.

Update on Talks with the Fire Front Office | *5 Minutes* | **Presenter:** Nicole

Purpose: Inform.

Notes: Not for Public Consumption.

Open Floor | *15 Minutes* | **Presenter:** Everyone in attendance.

Purpose: Listen, learn, grow.