

Chippewa Valley Pickleball Club
Board Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2022
YMCA Indoor Sports Center

Present: Greg Helgeson, Bev Hilton, Sandy Johnson, Karen McDermott, Jeff Lorentz, Judy Mirr, Linda Nicastro (USAPA Ambassador), Mike Mai (by phone), and Stacy Sommers.

Also present: Parks and Recreation Representative Julie Booth and Club Member Bill Bethke.

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by President Greg Helgeson.

The following items of business were discussed.

1. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2022, Board meeting. Motion carried.
2. Treasurer Mike Mai reported that the Club has funds totaling \$75,761.98. This includes donations of \$36,025 for the repair/resurfacing of the courts at McDonough Park. A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.
3. Member discussion. Club Member Bill Bethke summarized the involvement he has had with Lake Hallie, the Town of LaFayette, and Chippew Falls regarding their pickleball courts (new courts and maintenance of existing courts). He reported how pickleball continues to be the fastest growing sport in the country and how it benefits tourism. He also said that pickleball is an inexpensive sport and stressed the benefits of the sport. Bill is in favor of adding courts at McDonough Park. If four courts were added, it wouldn't impact the parking area. By adding six courts, the driveway would need to be moved. By having additional courts, the potential of having more tournaments at McDonough would be a possibility and could attract top players.

Further discussion took place about possible court expansion. It was suggested that the Club approach Visit Eau Claire with the idea and its potential impact. The expansion process would need to first go to the Parks and Waterways Commission before going to the Eau Claire City Council for its approval. It was recommended to see if Bill Bethke is willing to serve on a task force regarding court expansion. It was also suggested that we survey Club members to get their

opinion on building additional courts. A motion was made and seconded to move forward with exploring court expansion at McDonough Park. Motion carried.

4. Prior to the meeting, Board members received a list of concerns from Amy Foss Peterson of the Sports Center regarding pickleball play there. She wants players to be reminded that nets need to be taken down after all play sessions are done and that all players need to check in and pay (if necessary) at the desk before playing. Sandy will write an article for the newsletter regarding these issues and will share it with Amy for her consideration/input.
5. Julie Booth reported to the Board that she is willing to help with Club needs. She stated that tournament planning needs to start six to eight months prior to the event. She suggested that this be discussed further at the January Board meeting.
6. Greg brought the Board up to date on the McDonough courts repair/resurfacing project. The City put the project out for bids and no bids were received so it will be rebid in the spring of 2023. If there is a second failed bid, the City could look into hiring a contractor(s) to do the work. The Club needs to be flexible as to when the project will be completed.
7. Karen gave an update of the 50/50 cash raffle and donations received for 200 balls. Ron Doering won \$149 in the cash drawing; \$147 will go to the Club's treasury. After paying for the balls, the Club realized a net profit of \$160.
8. Committee reports. The Club's committee structure was discussed. Committee expectations need to be explained to members. Committee membership starts at the beginning of the year when Club dues are paid through renewals or new memberships. Once committees are formed, Greg will contact committee members about the possibility of chairing the committee they signed up for.
9. Several Board members will be gone to warmer climates for extended periods of time. With Greg's absence in January, Vice President Stacy Sommers will lead the meeting on Thursday, January 19. It was suggested that it could be a Zoom meeting so all Board members could take part. The meeting will start at 1 p.m. at the Indoor Sports Center. Bev will contact Amy about using a room at the Sports Center. The February Board meeting will be on Wednesday, February 22, from approximately 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The purpose of the first part of the meeting will be to discuss Club business, and the second part of the meeting will be a planning session.

10. Sandy informed the Board members that the Club's membership list is confidential and information on the membership list is not to be shared.
11. The membership form will be available in January. Committee responsibilities will be described on the back of the form. If members pay their membership dues by March 31, 2023, their name will be put in a drawing. Four \$50 gift certificates will be given away.
12. A group photo of those present was taken and will be published in the newsletter.
13. The Club's website was discussed. Prior to the meeting Linda sent links to other clubs' websites. Club members with technology experience will be contacted to see if they would be willing to assist with web page development. Greg will contact Ryan and Erin Hanson to see if they would be willing to assist.
14. Purchasing a laptop to archive Club documents was discussed. Stacy volunteered to check into the cost and see if there is grant money available from Sam's Club to acquire a laptop.
15. A paddle line procedure for McDonough Park was tabled but will be addressed at a future meeting.
16. Emailing Club members. Sandy shared a document outlining the steps to send an email to Club members. Anyone can send an all-members email. Up to 100 emails can be sent at one time using Yahoo email or Gmail. Sandy offered to explore using the Mailchimp application for emailing the newsletter and will report back to the Board in January.
17. Other. Greg told the Board he would like a newsletter sent to members before Christmas. He will write a president's update. Anyone can provide content for the newsletter. Lori Jahnke volunteered to format the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Submitted by,

Bev Hilton
Secretary