

Chippewa Valley Pickleball Club  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
April 19, 2023  
L.E. Phillips YMCA Board Meeting

Board members present: Julie Booth (remotely), Harry Gordee, Bev Hilton, Sandy Johnson, Jeff Lorertz, Mike Mai, Karen McDermitt, Judy Mirr, and Stacy Sommers.

Also present: Club Member Bill Bethke.

1. Vice president Stacy Sommers called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.
2. Secretary's report. Mike suggested removing the reference to Stripes as an online payment option for membership dues. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with the noted correction. Motion carried.
3. Treasurer's report. Mike summarized the income received since March. The Club has a balance of \$88,223.75. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried. Mike noted that when accepting online payments through the Club's website for membership dues and donations, the Club will be assessed a 30 cents per transaction fee plus an additional 2.9% fee.
4. Membership. Karen reported that to date we have 342 members. It is estimated that there are 100 individuals who have not renewed their memberships. Membership forms with QR codes will be available at the local pickleball courts.
5. Parks and Recreation liaison report. Julie Booth reported that the EC parks crew is ready for the opening of the courts on April 25. Jeff will pick up the door prize items from Julie as she will not be present at the park on Tuesday. Julie also provided a tournament update. Registrations have been coming in with some divisions nearly full; however, the mixed open division does not have any entrants nor does the women's 4.5 division. Julie will check into the logistics of the Club holding a 50/50 cash raffle the day of the Dells Open.
6. USA Pickleball Ambassador report – tabled.
7. Committee reports. Judy reported that individuals have approached her about the Club offering advanced lessons. It was suggested that players can benefit from watching YouTube videos regarding advanced play. They could also be referred to individuals who would be willing to lead advanced lessons. The individuals who would lead such instruction would need to be identified. In the future the Club could work with EC Parks and Recreation regarding lessons.
8. Jason Krueger from Visit Eau Claire joined the meeting via phone. Jason is familiar with the events held in Eau Claire. Greg mentioned that the Club is interested in exploring the possibility of getting funds through the City and through grants to help with the maintenance of the current courts. Jason indicated that Visit Eau Claire would potentially be interested in assisting with that effort. Bill Bethke reported approximately 400 people took beginner lessons in 2022. This has put a lot of pressure on the existing courts. He indicated that significant tournaments

could be held at McDonough Park if six additional courts were added. The Club could apply for tourism dollars through Visit Eau Claire for court expansion. Bill is willing to assist with securing private donations that could possibly be matched with tourism dollars. Jason would like to know the cost of adding six new courts. Sandy asked if Visit Eau Claire could be involved in the June tournament. He indicated that the deadline to apply for a grant has passed but Visit Eau Claire could possibly assist with marketing the event. Greg suggested that a meeting be held between the Club, the City of Eau Claire, and Visit Eau Claire regarding pickleball efforts. Jason indicated that Visit Eau Claire is willing to work with the Club regarding Club-sponsored events.

Bill reported that windscreens will be put up at the Town of LaFayette courts on Tuesday, April 25, at 1 p.m. He also reported that the Lake Hallie courts will be available for play June 1. There is an interest in having lessons at Lake Hallie.

9. Web designer Steve Wood provided training on the “back end” of the Club’s new website. He will provide login information to the Board members to the admin and Membership Works portion of the website. He said that the website is as secure as any other similar site. Steve answered questions raised by Board members and committee chairs.
10. Old Business:
  - Shoe recycling—Greg offered to help with the collection of shoes on April 25.
11. New Business:
  - A. Pay for play. Sandy reported that in some communities, people have to pay a fee to participate in organized play. Weyerhaeuser, Rice Lake, and Siren are three communities that charge for organized play participation and so does Rochester, Minnesota. This will be explored further.
  - B. The blower and a net have been found on the grounds at McDonough Park. The portable nets need to be locked in the yellow storage box, and the blower needs to be locked in the storage shed. The code to the shed lock is the same as last year. There has been inconsistency in the courts being locked after play has been concluded for the day. Harry recommended putting the paddle locks on the hinge side of the gates where they would be less conspicuous and hopefully not taken.
  - C. Board communication. Sandy suggested that the newsletter be sent to the Board members prior to it being sent to the entire membership to make sure all information is correct and nothing omitted. She also suggested avoiding replying to email threads and to start new emails instead.
  - D. Dropshot Pickleball clothing. Todd Cole is willing to offer a 10 percent discount to members who order clothing from him. Twice a year he will give the Club a 5 percent rebate from clothing sales. This would be advertised on the website and newsletter.
  - E. Sandy talked with Amy about getting events on the Sports Center calendar. Play for Pink, the Ice Ball, the 2024 Valentine’s Day event, and the 2024 St. Patrick’s day event have been added to the Sports Center calendar. Amy had indicated that if the Club intended to use the

Sports Center for the entire day for the 2024 January 20 Ice Ball, that it would need to be rented. However, if the Club charges people to participate, Amy is willing to accept \$5 of the fee in lieu of charging the Club the normal \$75 per hour rental fee. A motion was made and seconded to charge Club members \$10 to play in the Ice Ball with \$5 going to the Sports Center and to charge nonmembers \$15 to play with \$5 going to the Sports Center. Motion carried.

Also, Amy informed Sandy that alcohol will not be allowed in the raffle baskets for Play for Pink.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 2:54 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Bev Hilton, Secretary