

Chippewa Valley Pickleball Club
Board Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2023, 12 Noon
McDonough Park Pavilion

Present: Harry Gordee, Bev Hilton, Sandy Johnson, Mike Mai, Jeff Lorentz, Karen McDermott, Linda Nicastro

Also present: Club members Bill Bethke and Dave Markquart

The following items of business were discussed:

1. The meeting was called to order by President Greg Helgeson at 12:08
2. Member comments. Bill Bethke reported that it will be several years before the City of Eau Claire can offer financial assistance to support the McDonough Park pickleball courts. The Village of Lake Hallie is willing to contribute money to expand the courts in Lake Hallie. Because pickleball continues to grow, additional courts would provide more court accessibility and would attract players to participate in tournaments. Dave Markquart reported that the Eau Claire area has the best pickleball across all levels of play that he has seen. Bill indicated that he has the dollars worked out to expand at Lake Hallie. Bill distributed a handout showing the potential expansion of 13 courts, making the total number of courts at Lake Hallie 19. The new courts are designed to be pro courts with additional space behind the baseline and between the courts. The new courts would have fences between them and their own gate. There is enough area to accommodate parking, plus the church across the street from the park has parking available Monday through Saturday. Phase I is the construction of 13 new courts. The infrastructure could be put in place this year. Conduit would be installed to have lighted courts if that is something that would be wanted in the future. Local labor would be used. The estimate for the expansion is \$250,000. The Village of Lake Hallie would fund a portion of the cost of the project, with other money coming from donations. Sandy asked how the Club would benefit by supporting the court expansion. More flexibility is a big benefit. Plus, the area would have high-quality courts that would attract professional-level players to participate in tournaments. The courts would also serve as a site for clinics, lessons, and leagues, along with open play. Potentially the Club would grow in numbers with the new facility. June 1, 2024, is the target date for the courts to be finished. Phase II of the project would include bringing water to the courts and adding restroom facilities. The vision needs to be shared with members of the pickleball club.
3. Secretary's report. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the June meeting. Motion carried.

4. June 22-July 19 treasurer's report. Mike reported that the Club has a balance of \$70,602.29. After paying the balance of the court repair/resurfacing at McDonough Park, the Club will have approximately \$50,000 remaining. A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.
5. Membership report. Karen reported that at present the Club has 450 members. Signing up online is working well. "Contact Us" email goes to Greg. Steve Wood will be contacted to see how many hits the website is getting.
6. Parks and Rec – no report as Julie Booth was not present.
7. USPA ambassador report. Linda reported the following:
 - The Club has liability insurance through USPA. This insurance would apply to Club-sponsored lessons.
 - A "kick starter" grant has been applied for. If awarded, it will be used to purchase equipment to promote pickleball to young people in the McDonough Park community. Equipment could be donated to the area grade school for its use.
 - Altoona lessons have been full and have a waiting list.
 - As a thank you to people who donated to the McDonough court repair/resurfacing project, their names will be listed in an upcoming newsletter article.
 - Posts to the Club's Facebook page need to be pickleball related. Sandy and Linda remove inappropriate postings.
8. Committee reports:
 - Court ambassadors. Jeff reported that he and several Club members (Greg Helgeson, Harry Gordee, Marty Wood, Marily Skrivseth and Debbie Wessel) attended the Northside Hill picnic. They had the opportunity to meet several members of the neighborhood and provide play for all. The community is appreciative of what the Pickleball Club has done for McDonough Park.
 - Facilities/Equipment. Harry reported that the center screens have been torn; he will see about getting them replaced. A barrier needs to be put in place between courts 1-6 and 7-12 when courts 1-6 are being repaired/resurfaced. Harry has sprayed bees. He also said that the lost and found items need to be dealt with at the end of the year.
 - Fundraising/grants. Currently not active.
 - Organized play. Sign up is required for Thursday night round robins and players need to be Club members.
 - Lessons. Greg shared with the Board the lessons report he received from Judy. The next intro lesson is July 24. Six volunteers from the committee are helping with the lesson. The fourth and final lesson is at the end of August. Committee members were given the opportunity to learn how to organize and offer drill groups on their own. This has been successful.

- Social committee. The ice cream social will be held in conjunction with the reopening of courts 1-6. A swap meet may be held at this time too.
9. Old business.
- Dells Open recap. We're still waiting for pictures from the June tournament to include in a newsletter and on the Club's website. Karen is going to see if a "gallery" tab be added to the Club's website.
 - Court repair update. A downpayment was made to the contractor. Greg requested one week's notice prior to the start of work so players can be notified. Other area courts can be utilized while the courts are being repaired.
 - US Senior Pickleball Tournament. Eau Claire could be the hosting site for the tournament to be held mid-July 2024. Greg will notify Visit Eau Claire that the Club is interested in having the tournament in Eau Claire. It was suggested a committee be formed to deal with the details of hosting the tournament. Linda, Sandy, and Judy will serve on the committee and, if needed, will ask others to be on the committee.
 - GotSneakers recycling effort. Bev reported that the Club got \$63 for the athletic shoes donated to GotSneakers. A total of 101 pairs of shoes were displaced from landfills. Bev will write an article for the newsletter highlighting the impact the shoe recycling had on the environment.
10. New business:
- Newsletter. Linda, Sandy, and Karen met regarding ways to improve the newsletter process. Going forward, Karen offered to spearhead the newsletter. Linda offered to train Karen on the software she used to produce the newsletter when she was newsletter editor. Some members have had problems accessing the newsletter from the website.
 - Member conduct and etiquette. Greg addressed an issue that occurred during ladder league play in Lake Hallie. No action will be taken by the Board at this time.
 - Website enhancement. Greg would like the home page enhanced. Photos would be a good addition to the website.
 - September tournament. The Pickleball Palooza is September 9. Visit Eau Claire has offered to help with the event. Greg will verify with Julie Booth that the tournament will be run through Eau Claire Parks and Rec
 - The annual meeting will be Thursday, October 5. A nominations committee will be needed.
 - McDonough ribbon cutting event will be held after the completion of the court repairs/resurfacing.
 - McDonough gate additions--no action taken.
11. August newsletter. A list of content was discussed.
12. Other.

- Paddle stacking was discussed at length. The paddle racks will remain at center court for the time being.
- A motion was made and seconded to make a \$50,000 donation to the Lake Hallie project. One half will be paid in 2023 and one half in 2024. Motion carried.
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A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:22 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Bev Hilton, Secretary

On Thursday, July 20, Greg shared with Board members an email he received regarding the play of an individual in the ladder league in Lake Hallie. A motion was made and seconded that the individual be contacted and told play would no longer be allowed in our CVPC ladder league until the individual was willing to sit down and talk with two Board members regarding concerns over this person's style of play. Board members voted on the motion via email. The vote was two in favor and seven opposed. The motion was not approved.